MADRAS INFORMATION

No 3

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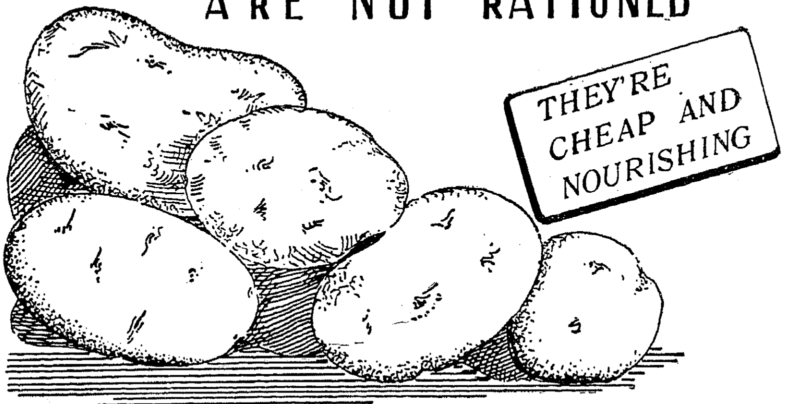

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GOVT OF MADRAS

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MADRAS INFORMATION

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

TWO important resolutions are reported to have been adopted at the Health Ministers' Conference held recently in Delhi, one on the question of the abolition of the Civil Branch of the I.M.S. and the second on the question of research and the application of the scientific method for the investigation of indigenous systems of medicine like Ayurveda and Unani.

It may be pointed out here that both these resolutions were moved by the Hon'ble Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi, Minister for Public Health in the Government of Madras, and therefore the credit for taking the lead in these two important respects, involving outstanding points of policy with regard to the Medical and Public Health administration of the country, should go to Madras. The resolution on the abolition of the Civil Branch of the I.M.S. stated that "there should be no Civil Branch of the Indian Medical Service" and requested that "the Central Government may arrange to take back immediately the Indian Medical Service personnel on the Civil side, employed in the provinces, and post them on the Military side to which they rightly belong." Not much comment is needed on this resolution, which is self-explanatory; and coming as it did from an authoritative body like the Health Ministers' Conference, it will presumably form part of the policy of the Provincial Governments represented at the Conference.

* * *

The second resolution on indigenous systems of medicine inheres an attempt to elevate the Ayurveda and Unani systems to the same level of importance in State patronage as that enjoyed so far by the Allopathic system. It is well-known that the Madras Ministry has already under investigation the possibilities of research in and encouragement of the Ayurveda and Unani systems. It was also decided by the conference to absorb the practitioners of the Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine into the State Health Organisation, by providing them further scientific training, wherever necessary, as Health personnel, like doctors, physical training experts, sanitary staff, nurses, midwives, etc. When this scheme is put into operation, these two indigenous systems of medicine will have been rescued from the state of undeserved neglect which had been their unfortunate lot so far to remain in, and attained an honoured place among the medicinal systems in vogue in the country. Other important resolutions passed at the conference related to the setting up of an anti-malaria organisation on the lines of the organisation proposed by the Bhore Committee, and urging that a vigorous drive against malaria should receive priority in development programmes. It was agreed at the conference that Boards of Health and Councils of Experts should be constituted both at the Centre and the provinces, and that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas should be taken up.

* * *

Co-ordination of the labour legislation plans of the Central and the provincial Governments is reported to have been decided at the Labour Ministers' Conference held recently in New Delhi. In an interview to the Press after his return from Delhi, the hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri stated that it was agreed at the conference that labour legislation would be Central but based on the greatest common measure of agreement among the provinces and the Centre coupled with the maximum possible freedom to the provinces in respect of the manner and method of its implementation. Legislation bearing on purely local matters will, however, continue to be the concern of the provinces. The fundamental principle accepted at the conference was obviously

that labour legislation should have an all-India basis and should be uniform for the whole country including the States, while providing at the same time for maximum possible autonomy to the provincial and State Governments in the sphere of administration. That this is a satisfactory and appropriate arrangement and involves a healthy adherence to well-established practice in other countries with federal constitutions will be readily conceded. Co-ordination in the matter of administration will be ensured at the same time by the continuance in force of the existing machinery of the Tripartite Labour Conference and through the medium of the six-monthly conference of Labour Ministers. The immediate effect of the acceptance of the arrangement decided upon at the conference will probably be that the Madras Government will not proceed with their intention to introduce in the next session of the Legislature the comprehensive Bill to regulate trade disputes and wages, though they would proceed with other bills and measures of legislation which appertain to conditions peculiar to the presidency, thus leaving the Centre to undertake legislation about problems which are common to the whole country.

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There is much to be said from the standpoint of efficient administration and the promotion of the public interests in favour of the principle of Centre-provincial co-ordination in the sphere of legislation and policy bearing on issues of all-India importance, and that such co-ordination can be pursued with fruitful results is evidenced by the recently held conferences of provincial Premiers, provincial Ministers of Labour and provincial Ministers of Public Health. At these conferences were discussed by responsible ministers vital problems appertaining to policy and administration connected with their respective portfolios and common policies were decided upon with regard to most of them, the governing principle implicit in them being that while the Central Government could with advantage play the role of the co-ordinating authority and as the clearing house of ideas, the provincial Governments should be autonomous in the region of administration and provide the requisite administrative machinery for the execution of the decisions arrived at. This kind of cordial co-operation and mutually agreed division of functions in important matters between the Central and provincial Governments, which in essence is an extension of the practice which had been found om experience to be supremely beneficial in the sphere of food administration during the last four years, is a good augury and fits in with the existing constitutional set-up in the Centre and the provinces. If the atmosphere of cordiality and good feeling persists and extends to other departments also, it will be immensely in the interests of the public, as all-India planning is postulated by stern experience as an essential pre-condition to successful promotion of the economic well-being of the whole country, subject of course to the demands of provincial special interests. The existence of popular Governments at the Centre and in the provinces at present is a factor which conduces to the furtherance of reciprocal appreciation of the divergent viewpoints between the two authorities and it must be widely welcomed by the people.

* * *

The Government have a programme of opening 150 institutions throughout the presidency for the training of young men in about 50 cottage industries, announced the Premier, while inaugurating the Central Polytechnic in Madras a few days back. Located in places to which the villagers can have easy access, these institutions will serve the needs of the villagers and enable them to receive training in some craft or industry which will constitute the foundation for their subsequent profitable employment in the industry for which they received the training. With Government financial and technical aid forthcoming to facilitate their starting a suitable business, the trainees should be able to set themselves up as craftsmen or small businessmen or small industrialists, serving and supplying the needs of a group of villages. The scheme has considerable potentialities for promoting the self-sufficiency of the villages in regard to their daily requirements and in relieving educated unemployment. A village artisan or carpenter or blacksmith with a background of general education and regular training in his trade will definitely be better equipped for and more competent in the pursuit of his trade or calling than an uneducated or untrained one. He can serve the village as well as lead it, and prove himself a vital factor in the scheme of village rehabilitation.

* * *

Complaints, which have been many and loud, about the congestion in the city buses and trams, are sought to be eliminated at least partially by the decision of the Government to indent the service of a number of lorries for passenger transport during rush hours over

busy routes. The numbers of such lorries will be 30 and each lorry will be fitted with seats to carry 19 passengers. It is not claimed that the arrangement will relieve completely the heavy pressure on the existing transport services; but as a temporary measure, intended to mitigate inconvenience to bus and tram users in the metropolis during the rush hours, it should be welcomed, pending a better and more satisfactory arrangement. It is well known that the question of efficient administration of motor transport throughout the province, with a view to provide an improved road service to the public, is engaging the serious attention of the Government, and in this the question of improvement of the service and administration of the transport services in the Madras city forms inevitably an important part. It is a problem which is India-wide in its scope and the issue is whether motor transport should be nationalised by being brought under State control and management or left to the ownership of the private interests or there should be a combination of the principles of private ownership and State control and regulation. Opinion is rapidly veering round to the first-mentioned view as being the best from all stand-points.

* * *

Sound counsel was administered by the Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister of Education, to the students who gathered in the Educational Convention held in Madras on Oct. 26, which they would do well to ponder inwardly and assimilate. He pointed out to them that strength could be derived only through discipline and self-restraint and not through dissipation of energies in activities like strikes. Deploring the fact that discipline has in recent times been deteriorating in the schools and colleges, he warned against the wishful thought which might have proved an encouragement to this deplorable tendency that the Congress Government would either tolerate or connive at indiscipline or at lightning strikes. Strikes may have a place in settling trade disputes but they are out of place in schools and colleges, declared Sri Avinashilingam; and, as he emphasised, a proneness to resort to extra-constitutional and undisciplined methods like strikes on the slightest provocation is calculated to have devastating consequences on the teacher-pupil relations, which should be broad-based on mutual trust, confidence and respect. While a great deal rests on the teachers themselves in producing an atmosphere of this character by precept as well as by example, the students should also realise that there is grave danger to their future careers as citizens who can glorify their country and enlarge the bounds of her freedom and greatness, as potential leaders of industry, crafts and arts, and as administrators and so on, if they permit the capital opportunities that are open to them during their student days to be wasted in thoughtless excursions into the realms of indiscipline and irresponsibility and if they do not take the fullest advantage of the instruction provided to them in educational institutions. Nor is the responsibility of the parents any the less in this vital matter. Our young men must constantly bear in mind the first and essential principle that he who cannot understand the virtues of discipline himself cannot enforce discipline on others.

FIXING OF FOOD GRAIN PRICES

Some Considerations

(Contributed)

A representative special committee constituted by Government to advise them on the fixation of a suitable price for the foodgrains for the Kharif year which could be recommended to the Government of India, met recently under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sri Raghava Menon, and discussed in detail the pros and cons of the question. The fundamental consideration in this connection now, as ever before, is the fixation of a price for the next season's crop which would be reasonably profitable from the cultivator's point of view and which at the same time would not hit the consumer hard, or aggravate the inflationary effect on general price levels. This consideration is all the more vital as everyone, whether man, woman or child, is a consumer so far as food is concerned and everyone is concerned with having it at reasonable prices, while Government, on their part, are anxious to ensure that they do get it at such prices. An associated and inter-connected consideration is that the provincial foodgrain prices should be such that they will, on the one hand, be just and fair to the local producer and, on the other facilitate the fixing of all-India prices by the Government of India which would not needlessly impede inter-provincial movement of foodgrains at a time of crisis—to avoid periodical local shortages. Credence has to be given to the fact that Madras, taken as a whole, is a deficit area and that it cannot do, at least until its 'Grow More Food' efforts and schemes attain full stride, without external assistance in the shape of food imports. Any price for food-

grains that may be adopted by the provincial Government cannot, therefore, be decided either in isolation or without full consideration being accorded to all these relevant and imperative factors.

* * *

Lowering General Price Levels

There is full realisation on the part of Government that the agriculturist and the cultivator must be enabled to get their due, that they had not been in a position to get that due for a long time and that it was only in recent years, particularly during the war years, that there had been a slight reversal of the position after years of depression and low prices. There is full realisation too that the agriculturist is also a consumer of goods besides being a producer of that vital commodity, viz. food, and commodities like cotton and sugarcane etc., and that so long as the prices of other urgent and imperative requirements of his remain stationary or are on the up-grade, any lowering of the prices for agricultural produce alone will render agriculture uneconomic in the real sense of the term and will be utterly unfair to him besides proving an inducement to him to turn his attention more to the cultivation of other crops than food crops. Nevertheless, in the interests of the general community, of which the agriculturists constitute an important and integral part, it is probably preferable that every effort should be made to bring down the general price level for consumer goods, including in particular those specially required by the agriculturist in his daily work like manure, implements and cattle, than that a direct enhancement of the prices of agricultural produce, which would result in the persistence of the inflationary tendency and conditions of general economic unsettlement, should be countenanced.

* * *

Avoidance of Disequilibrium Necessary

There is much to be said from the larger standpoint of public interests for the avoidance of the latter danger referred to and every agriculturist and everyone interested in the promotion of the agricultural industry and the welfare of the agriculturists must welcome the measures taken to counter unrestrained inflation. The continued prevalence of high price levels for all kinds of consumer goods has disturbing repercussions on the country's general economy, and it must be regarded as far better that price equilibria should be restored as far as possible without detriment to the interests of any section of the people than that the existing disequilibrium should continue to rule, affecting adversely the interests of the family budgets of individuals and the budget of the Governments, Central and provincial. A gradual and judicious process of bringing down the price levels is, therefore, of paramount importance for the purpose of restoring the country's economy to normalcy. It is also an essential preliminary to the lowering of Governmental expenditure, now bloated by special war and dearness allowances, which are a necessary and inevitable corollary of and concession to inflated price levels, and to bring about a peaceful transformation from war to peace economy, from extraordinary to ordinary conditions.

Duty of the Producers

Prices of agricultral produce—particularly grains—have food to be maintained at a reasonable level mainly because food is the first and foremost necessity for everyone in the country and secondarily because so long as foodgrain prices are at a high level, the prices of other commodities, by the inescapable interplay of economic forces, will also tend to remain high. Evaluations of what is a reasonable price for different regions may slightly vary; but it should be possible—indeed, it is essential—that an average price for the whole province should be fixed within the four corners of the prerequisites referred to above. When such an economic and satisfactory price has been decided upon by the Government for foodgrains, after every fact and factor relevant thereto is taken into account, it will remain for the agriculturists to discharge the patriotic duty and render the public service of releasing all the surplus grain they have of their own spontaneous and voluntary accord and thus help the Government to manage the food situation in the interests of millions of their fellow-countrymen. So far as the Madras Government are concerned, being a popular one, they are anxious to do everything possible to help the agriculturist and the cultivator to make the industry a profitable and remunerative one, and their various measures—those already undertaken and those under contemplation—to ameliorate the lot of the farmer constitute their own most effective recommendation. But questions pertaining to food have been discussed and decided on an all-India level during the last four years and the crisis through which we are passing imposes responsibilities and obligations on everyone—and not the least important of such responsibilities devolve upon the agriculturist, who has not only to produce more but sell everything that he can spare at the reasonable prices fixed by the Government.

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

Electric Power Supply In The Province

Issued on October 17, 1946.

EVER since 1927, the Madras Government have been contemplating a scheme of interconnected power houses, hydro as well as thermal, located at suitable centres feeding a net work of distribution lines covering both towns and villages. All the electricity projects constructed so far were designed to fit into an electric grid which was to be gradually developed till its power resources would be adequate to serve the whole of the province.

In order to conserve materials for the war effort, severe restrictions were placed on all schemes for power development, and supply of electricity to new consumers was confined to essential military and civil needs. The restrictions on power supply during the war were followed by unfavourable monsoons in 1945, and when the Mettur lake recorded phenomenally low levels, further restrictions were imposed in the Mettur System.

The restrictions on power supply imposed during the war are now being gradually relaxed. The South West Monsoon has been quite favourable this year and the supply position has also improved in all the Hydro-Electric Systems.

Now that the war is over, the schemes for power expansion which were kept in abeyance have been taken up, new schemes formulated and a five year plan has been programmed. The Government propose to spend about Rs. 15 crores on the schemes, and when these are completed, the present generating plant capacity in the province will be doubled, resulting in considerable expansion of the areas receiving electric supply; new areas especially in the Circars and the Ceded Districts will also get power supply in the near future. A brief description of the schemes is given below:—

(a) Machkund Scheme in Vizag

Power will be developed from the Duduma Falls in the Machkund river, which forms the boundary between Madras and Orissa. The first stage of the scheme provides for an installed capacity of 51,750 K.W.; the scheme is capable of an ultimate development of 1,00,000 K. W. The construction work has commenced, and the first stage of the scheme is expected to be completed by 1950. The scheme is to be worked in partnership with the Orissa Government, and for this purpose an agreement was entered into early this year, and under this agreement 70% of the power developed will be available to Madras which will ensure adequate supply for all the needs of the Vizagapatam, Godavari, Kistna and Guntur Districts for several years to come.

As an advance stage of this scheme and with a view to supply the immediate needs of the area, additional plant is being installed at each of the existing thermal stations at Vizagapatam and Bezwada. A 110 K.V. line from Bezwada to Rajahmundry with a 33 K.V. extension to Samalkot is being built to develop the East and West Godavari areas.

(b) Nellore Scheme

A thermal station with an installed capacity of 6,500 K.W. has been planned for the Nellore area and orders have been placed for the generating sets. The scheme will meet the needs of the mica, ceramic, glass, chemicals, rayon and other industries that are being planned, in this area.

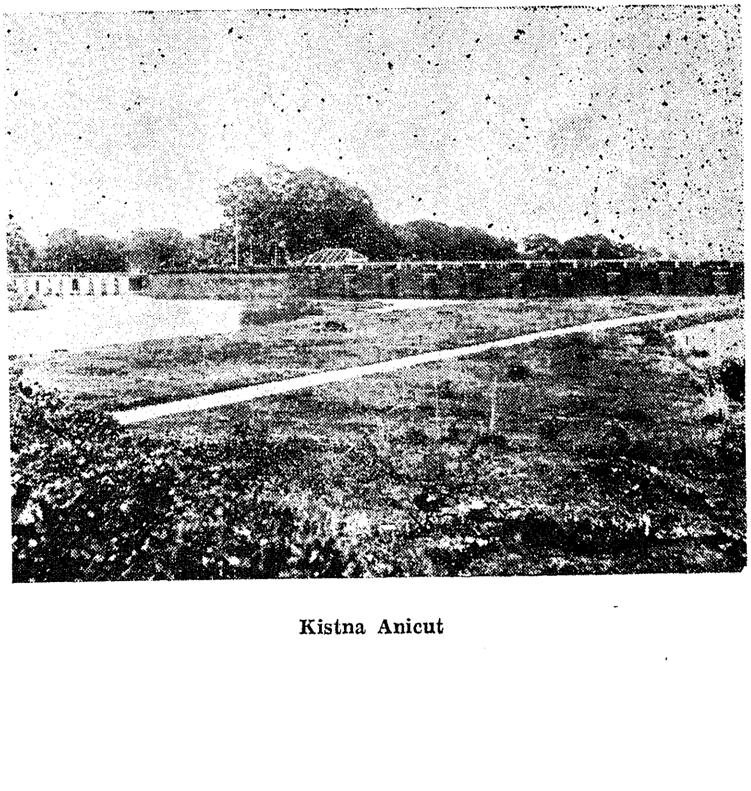
(c) Ceded Districts Scheme

The Ceded districts have long been in need of electric power. The Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Scheme which will develop power of about 28,800 K.V.A. for eight months in a year and 6,900 K.V.A. for the remaining four months is intended to meet their requirements but it is expected to be completed only by 1952-53. Meanwhile in order to cater to immediate needs it has been decided to purchase power from the Mysore Jog Hydro-electric Scheme from the middle of 1948 and to distribute it over an area covered by the Tungabhadra Dam site, Hospet, Hagari-Bommanhalle, Bellary and Guntakal. Work on survey of the interconnecting transmission line has commenced.

In addition, the establishment of a thermal station at Cuddapah is under consideration.

(d) Madras City and Suburban Area

The power undertaking managed by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation is to be acquired by



Kistna Anicut

the Government in August 1947 and a scheme for extending and modernising the plant has been sanctioned. The present output of the power station is limited by its boiler capacity and restrictions and rationing of the power supply have been in force for some years.

The extension scheme contemplates the installation of a new 15,000 K.W. turbo-alternator with the associated boilers and switch and transformer gear. Orders have been placed already for the boilers, and provision has been made for the advance installation of one unit so as to increase the output of the station with minimum delay. These extensions when completed would be adequate to meet the demands that are likely to arise in and around Madras on account of large and small scale industries, railway electrification and rural development.

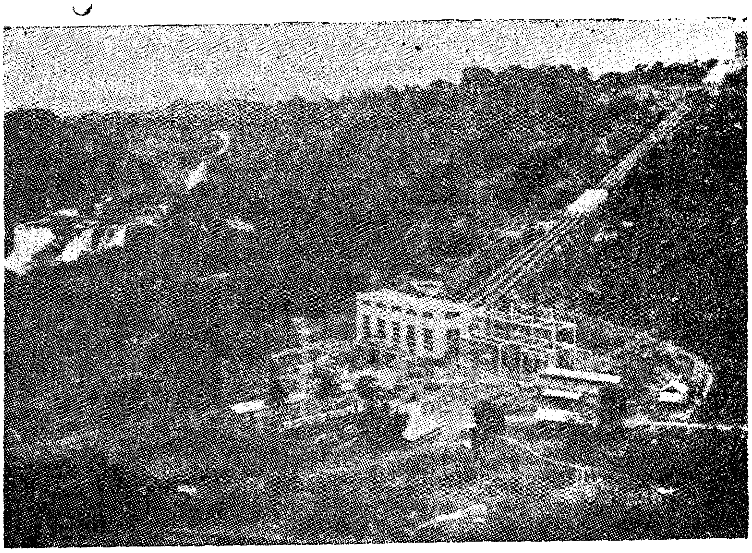
Meanwhile, to meet the immediate domestic and essential power demands, steps have been taken to supplement the output of the power station by running the emergency power station at Villivakkam and by the establishment of mobile power units.

The Madras Thermal station will also be linked up with Mettur Hydro Station by a 110 K.V. line early in 1948. Work on this is already in hand, and the scheme will enable exchange of power to mutual advantage, conserving coal during periods of abundance of water at Mettur and supplementing Mettur output in times of water shortage there.

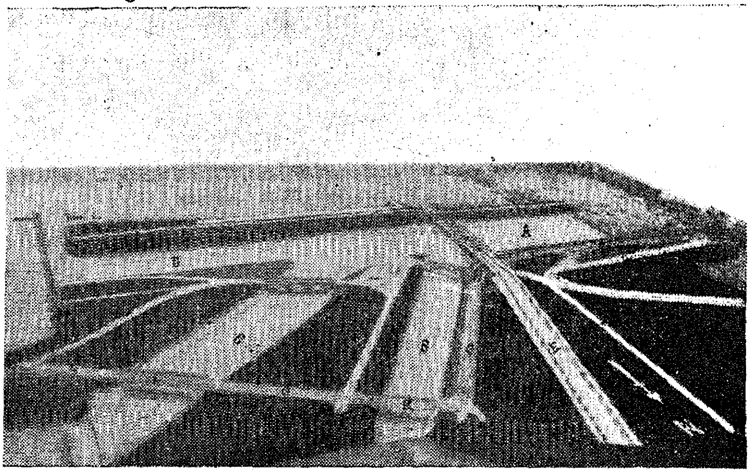
(e) Moyar Scheme In The Nilgiris

The tail water from Pykara Power Station will be diverted and dropped down the Moyar slopes utilising a gross head of 1,[illegible]00 ft. Two 12,000 K.W. sets will be installed initially. Preliminary works have commenced and orders for most of the plant have been placed. The Power Station which is expected to go into operation in 1949, will supplement the supply to the Pykara and Mettur areas where large industrial and agricultural developments are being planned.

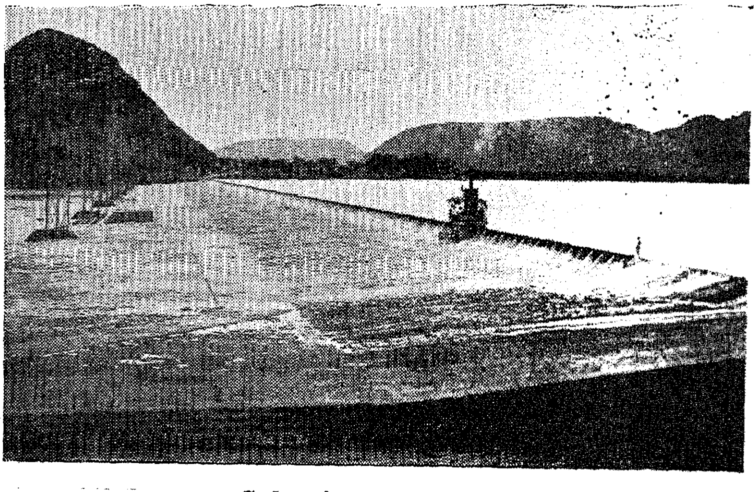
Pykara power is now being extended to Wynaad, Calicut and Cannanore. Extension of supply to South Kanara has been planned and provided for in the Moyar Scheme.



Papanasam: The Pen-Stock and Power House



A Model showing proposed sub-way near Bezwada



Godavari Eastern Delta

(f) Pykara-Moyar Final Stage Extensions

Recent unfavourable monsoon conditions have indicated the need for additional storage of water in hydro-electric areas, and this is economically feasible at Pykara. Moreover, as Pykara is in a strategically favourable position to meet the increasing demand in the hydro grid area in the South and also for providing a block of power for any unexpected development, the final expansion of the plant at Pykara and Moyar has been planned and sanctioned. This scheme provides for a second reservoir in the Pykara river of 2,000 million cubic feet and the addition of two 13,500 K.W. sets at Pykara station and a third 12,000 K.W. set at Moyar Station. Work on the scheme has begun and will be proceeded with simultaneously with the Moyar Scheme. By 1950 when these extensions are completed there will be ample power available in the southern portion of the grid till 1955.

(g) Papanasam Extensions

For utilising the water that is available during periods of good rainfall gates are being installed across the spillway of the Thambraparni Dam to increase the Storage to 5,500 million cubic feet and one more 7,000 K.W. unit with the connected pipe line is being added to the power station. Work is in progress and will be completed by the middle of 1948.

(h) Madura Thermal Station

On account of the rapid load development in the Papanasam System, the construction of a Thermal Station Contemplated at a later stage as part of the Papanasam Hydro-Thermal scheme, has to be taken up much earlier than anticipated. It is proposed to install at once a 4,000 K.W. set at Madura and to add a 8,000 K.W. set as soon as possible. This will meet the growing demand of the Madura, Ramnad and Tinnnevelly Districts and also the power deficiencies due to water shortage in the hydro-electric areas.

Future Still Shaping

The above schemes are programmed for meeting all the demands that are anticipated in the immediate future. Plans for the industrialisation of the province are yet to take concrete shape and it is too early to say what further demand for power will arise from them. A general awakening to the advantage of industrialisation and rural development is clearly manifest. When people get better acquainted with electricity and realise the enormous contribution it makes to their well-being and social progress, a progressively increasing demand for power is certain to arise and fresh sources of power have to be exploited. Promising water power sites are available in the S. Kanara and the Nilgiris districts, on the Periyar on the Cauvery at Mekadatu and on the Godavari and its tributaries. Schemes for their development and connection to the grid will be taken up in good time to meet all the growing power needs of the Province.

Prospective industrialists desiring information regarding availability of power in a particular area are advised to get into touch with the General Superintendent, Operating Systems, Chepauk, Madras, or the Local Electric Supply undertaking.

Food Control Orders Retained

Issued on October 18, 1946.

By his Ordinance No. XVIII of 1946 published at page 711-714 of the Extraordinary Issue of the Gazette of India dated 25-9-1946. His Excellency the Governor-General of India has provided for the continuance of certain orders relating to foodstuffs etc., issued under the Defence of India Rules which ceased to be in force from the 1st October 1946. The Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act has also been passed by the Madras Legislature.

By virtue of the said Ordinance and the said Provincial Act the following orders issued by the Government of Madras and the Commissioner of Civil Supplies will continue to be in force. Collectors will issue separately a Press note detailing the orders issued by him or their subordinates which will continue to be in force.

A. List Of Orders Issued By Government

1. The Madras Foodgrains Control Order (No. II) 1945.
2. Madras Foodgrains (Movement Control) Order 1945.
3. The Madras, Rice, Blackgram and Sugar preparations (Movement Control Order 1946).
4. The Madras Foodgrains Procurement Order 1945.
5. Procurement and Distribution —Paddy and Millets—Crop year 1946-47.
6. Rationing—The Madras Rationing preparatory measures Order 1946.
7. The Madras Rationing Order 1945.
8. Essential Articles—Restricted Acquisition Order 1945.
9. The Madras Food (Restriction on service of meals by catering establishments) Order 1945.
10. The Rationing Order—Restricting the Number of Participants in a party other than a marriage party and marriage parties.
11. The Madras Rationing Enquiry Order.
12. The Madras Rice Mills Licensing Order 1945.
13. Foodgrains— Transport— East Godavari District-Transport of millets outside agency Taluks—Restriction—Notification issued.
14. Millets—Yellow Cholam—Control of distribution of imports from places outside the Province—Countersignature of R. R's. or shipping documents prescribed.
15. The Madras Wheat Preparation (Movement Control) Order 1945.
16. Civil Supplies—Wheat—Undermilling—Restriction on output of ban Notification.
17. Pulses—Control of Distribution.
18. Kesari Dhall (Prohibition on import) Order 1945.
19. Sugar—The Madras Sugar Dealers' Licensing Order 1945.
20. Sugar—Madras Confectionery Factories Licensing Order 1945.
21. The Madras Sugar Rationing Order 1946.
22. Sugar and Sugar Products Control Order 1946—Government of India Notification republished.
23. Sugar-Movement by Railway-Control-Notification.
24. Sugar-Bura and Sugarcandy manufacture—Control.
25. The Madras Gur Control Order 1946.

26. The Madras Milk Control (use in catering establishments) Order 1946.

27. Chillies—chilly products—Transport—Outside the Province—Banned.

28. Onions and Tamarind—Transport—Outside the Province of Madras — Prohibition — Notification.

29. Coriander—Transport outside the Province—Prohibited.

30. Garlic—Transport outside the Province—Prohibited.

31. Salt—Maximum — ex-factory, ex-duty—wholesale price in producing districts—Notified.

32. The Madras-Potato (dealers and transport) Control Order 1945.

33. Sweet Potato—Movement Control Order.

34. Ghee—Transport outside the Province prohibited — except under permit.

35. Gingelly Oil—Export outside the Province prohibition.

36. Groundnut oil—Export outside the Province-Banned.

37. Groundnut oil—Ceiling prices—fixation.

38. Groundnut — Kernel — Ceiling prices—Fixation.

39. Oil seeds—Transport by road, Rail, Canal or sea outside the Province—Prohibited.

40. Kusuma (Saflour) seed and its products—Export outside the Province Prohibited.

41. Civil Supplies—Tapioca—Transport outside the Province of Madras—Prohibition — Madras Tapioca (Movement Control) Order, 1946.

42. Tapioca—Salem District—Cultivation in certain lands—Prohibited.

43. Fodder—Export of cotton seeds from Tinnevelly area—throughout the year prohibited.

44. Civil Supplies—Madras Fowls and Eggs (Movement) Control Order, 1945.

45. The Madras Meat Dealers Control Order 1945.

46. Beef Cattle — Criteria for slaughter.

47. The Madras Firewood Rationing Order 1945.

48—50. Orders regulating the conversion of Casuarina and Acacia—planifrons firewood into charcoal—exports of firewood and charcoal outside the districts in the Province and import of firewood and charcoal into Madras Province from outside the Province.

51. Civil Supplies—Firewood and twigs—Madras City—Maximum retail prices—Notification.

52. Civil Supplies—Firewood Maximum wholesale prices in Chingleput District.

53. The Madras Firewood—Restricted Acquisition Order 1945.

54. Kerosene—The Madras Kerosene Control Order 1945.

B. List Of Orders Issued By The Board Of Revenue (Civil Supplies)

1. Foodgrains—Transport within the Province—Prohibition—except under permit.

2. Foodgrains—Order to regulate import of foodgrains and other essential commodities into British Cochin—Notification.

3. Foodgrains—Tanjore District—Transport to Pudukottah State —Movement from Coastal Belt area.

4. Foodgrains—North Arcot District—Inter Taluk Movement—Prohibition except under permit.

5. Foodgrains—Chingleput District —Inter taluk movement of paddy, rice and millets—Restriction.

6. Foodgrains—South Arcot District—Inter Village Movement from certain specified villages—Prohibited except under a permit.

7. Foodgrains—Chittoor district—Transport of paddy, rice and millets—Inter Village rectriction.

8. Foodgrains—North Arcot District—Inter Village Transport of paddy rice and millets.

9. Foodgrains—Kurnool District—Inter Village—Transport of paddy, rice and millets—Restriction.

10. Foodgrains—Kistna District—Restriction on Inter village movement—Paddy, rice and millets.

11. Foodgrains—Trichinopoly District—Inter village movement—Paddy, rice and millets—Restriction.

12. Foodgrains—Bellary District—Inter village movement of paddy, rice and millets.

13. Foodgrains—Salem District—Transport of paddy, rice and millets—Inter village restriction.

14. Foodgrains—Coimbatore District—Paddy, rice and millets movement from place of storage within the District—Prohibited—except under permit.

15. Foodgrains—Salem District—Export from Huzur and Dharmapuri Revenue Divisions—Prohibited—except under permit.

16. Foodgrains—Tinnevelly District —Movement of paddy, rice and millets Control.

17. Order to control the milling of paddy by rice mills in rationed areas.

18. Rice—Transport for personal consumption within the Province—Regulation.

19. Foodgrains—Guntur District—Transport of paddy, rice and millets—Inter village restriction.

20. Paddy and Rice—Nellore District—Export from Kovur and Kavali Taluks—Prohibited except under permit.

21. Paddy and Rice or their products—East Godavari District—Export from Nigur Taluk—Prohibited except under permit.

22. Pulses—Blackgram, Redgram, Bengalgram—Their Dhalls and Products—Import by private agencies—Control of sales etc.—Instructions.

23. The Gur Control Order 1946—Prohibition of Sugarcane crushing for the manufacture of Jaggery in Pugalur factory area.

24. The Gur Control Order 1946—Prohibition of Sugarcane Crushing for the manufacture of Jaggery in Podanur factory area.

25. Tapioca — Salem District — Transport Prohibition—Except under permit.

26. Cattle fodder—Export outside Tanjore district—Banned.

27. Cattle fodder—Export outside Anantapur District—Banned.

28. Cattle fodder—export outside Bellary District—Banned.

29. Cattle fodder—export outside Nellore District—Banned.

Dehydrated Potatoes

Issued on October 12, 1946

The Government have ordered that the dehydrated potatoes manufactured by Messrs Parry and Company on Government account and those imported from the American Army surpluses in India and United States of America be sold:

(a) to the general public at the rate of Rs. 0-4-3 per lb., the price to the retailers of ration shops being Rs. 0-4-0; and

(b) to others e.g., hotels, restaurants, Railway and Factory Grainshops, Governments and Administrations of other Provinces, Indian States etc., at Rs. 1-2-0 per lb.

Concessions to Demobs

Issued on October 19, 1946

The Government have allowed the following concessions to demobilised personnel who wish to obtain or renew licences to drive motor vehicles:—

(1) Any person who held a driving licence previously, and who, on account of failure to renew it or to get a new licence, has to pass the test of competence to drive to get a fresh licence is exempted from paying the fee prescribed for the test if such failure was due to service in the Armed Forces and if the service was out of India or for not less than six months within India during the war, i.e., between the 3rd September 1939 to the 1st April, 1946.

(2) Any person who did not previously hold a civil driving licence but who, having been honourably released or discharged from the Armed forces, and having qualified during such service as Grade I or Grade II driver or service tradesman of an equivalent grade, applies for licence within one year of his release or discharge, is exempted from Part I of the test. This exemption from the test will not apply for a licence to drive a motor cycle but such Grade II drivers as well as Grade III drivers or service tradesmen who have not served for not less than six months in the Forces are allowed to undergo not more than one test without paying any fee. Services tradesmen of grades equivalent to Driver Grades I, II and III are as follows:—

Grade I—Driver mechanic, Motor mechanic, Crew driver mechanic, Grade II—Crew Motor mechanic, Grade I—Driver M. T. (Leading aircraftsman).

Grade II—Driver mechanic (Cinema), Grade I—Driver M.T. (A. C. 1), M.T. mechanic.

Grade III—Driver operator, Grade II—Driver M.T. (A.C. 2).

(3) Persons described in paragraphs (1) and (2) above are exempted from the fee for the issue of a licence or the fee for the first renewal of their licence after discharge or release.

Lapse of H. P. P. Ordinance

Issued on October 24, 1946

The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943 and the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945, lapsed on 30-9-46. The powers vested in the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, under those two laws in regard to control over distribution and prices of consumer goods also lapsed on that day. Correspondence pending in the office of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, relating to the fixation of profit margins, the issue of instructions regarding distribution of articles, the issue of permits for the purchase of consumer goods in short supply and all other matters covered by these two laws will be treated as closed.

An Eye-Wash Exposed

Issued on October 21, 1946.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that printed invitations to dinner on marriage and other occasions are being issued with a note "Please bring your rations" or "Send your ration card in advance". Evidently it is intended to convey by such a note that the invitees do actually bring their rations thus enabling the host to give the dinner. This, however, seldom happens and the note is merely an eye-wash. Government desire to invite the attention of the public to the press notes dated 23-3-1946 and 8-8-1946 which restrict:

(1) the number of persons that could be fed at parties other than marriage parties to 30, and

(2) the number of persons that could be fed at marriage parties to 50 including the bride, the bridegroom, other relatives and guests.

Feeding of persons over the number prescribed above will be an offence even if it is done with the aid of rations brought by invitees. The public are, therefore, advised not to use the note referred to above in sending out invitations in future.

Casuarina Poles

Issued on October 17, 1946.

A large number of applications are received by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) from Engineering Contractors for grant of permits for the movement of Casuarina poles into the City from Chingleput district for scaffolding purposes, in connection with the construction of buildings in the City of Madras. Sometimes the poles which are already in their possession are sought to be moved from one place to another in the City. The contractors often represent that as the works undertaken by them have to be executed expeditiously, the permits should be issued urgently. The Board has no data readily available to verify with reference to the stock already held by them whether the contractors are justified in purchasing the quantity specified in their application at competitive prices from the topes earmarked for supplies to civilian needs of Madras City. Further it is also not known how the poles so imported are disposed of by them after the constructions are completed. As firewood is a rationed article in the city and as the inflow of casuarina wood into the city for civilian requirements from nearby topes has to be assured, the Government have in consultation with the Board issued a notification under Section 3 (2) (g) of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, calling on the Engineering Contractors (individuals and Firms) in the approved lists of the P.W.D. (all branches), the Corporation of Madras and the Defence Services, who are engaged in the construction works, to furnish to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) not later than 31-10-1946 a true and correct statement in the form specified in the Notification in respect of firewood viz., Casuarina wood into the city for civilian session on 15-10-1946. If the information is furnished it will greatly facilitate the grant of permits to the contractors as and when they apply, and will also help the Board of Revenue (Civil Suppli[illegible] to assure supplies of casu[illegible] firewood in the Ciity an[illegible] viate the possibility of being sold in the black

Village Food Committees

Issued on October 25, 1946.

In the Press Note No. 95 dated 16-8-1946 it was announced that no complaints received in connection with the formation of the Village Food Committees after 28th August would be entertained by the Government. In spite of this, several complaints have been made to the Government after that date in regard to the formation of such Committees on one ground or other, that they are not fully representative, or that some particular party has been allowed representation in excess and so on. Suitable action has been taken in respect of genuine complaints which deserved consideration. The Government consider it necessary that arrangements should now be finalised and the committees should commence work without any further delay. Instructions have accordingly been issued to the Collectors to see that the Committees begin to function forthwith and that necessary assistance is rendered to the committees in their work. The public are hereby informed that no petitions regarding the formation of Village Committees will be entertained by Government in future and that petitions received in this regard will be summarily rejected.

Famine Relief

Issued on October 17, 1946

There was good rainfall in both the districts of Anantapur and Bellary during September. The irrigation sources in Anantapur received fairly good supplies during the month. But the supplies were below normal. Dry crops and irrigated crops are fairing well. More rainfall is needed to augment the supplies to the irrigation sources in both the districts.

Distress is gradually decreasing as agricultural operations are progressing. The numbers of works sanctioned in each of the districts are given below:—

District		*Road works*
Anantapur	..	56
Bellary	..	16
Total	..	72

District		*Irrigation works*
Anantapur	..	33
Bellary	..	19
Total	..	52

District		*Other works icluding wells*
Anantapur	..	109
Bellary	..	39
Total	..	148

District		*Total*
Anantapur	..	198
Bellary	..	74
Grand Total	..	272

The average number of persons relieved in all these works daily was 5,146 in Anantapur and 3,419 in Bellary.

Fodder Depots

Twenty-six fodder depots were sanctioned in Anantapur district, of which eighteen are now working. The remaining eight depots were closed after the receipt of the recent rains. There are seven depots in Bellary at present. The demand for hill grass has fallen in Bellary. Orders have therefore since been issued for the closure of the seven fodder depots in Bellary district unless the Special Relief Collector considers it necessary that they should continue for some more time. The particulars of receipts and sales of fodder during the month are as follows:—

District		*Receipts Tons*
Anantapur	..	1,017
Bellary	..	512
Total	..	1,529

Districts		*Sales Tons*
Anantapur	..	223
Bellary	..	158
Total	..	381

District		*Balance Tons*
Anantapur	..	794
Bellary	..	354
Total	..	1,148

Gratuitous Relief

Gratuitous relief in the shape of cash and grain is being distributed to the infirm and decrepit persons in the village in both the districts. The average number of persons relieved under this category daily is 14,892 in Anantapur and 2,051 in Bellary. Four free kitchens have also been opened for children in Perur, Kambadur, Amarapuram and Agali villages in the Anantapur district. There is good attendance in these kitchens.

The distribution of condensed milk to expectant and nursing mothers and to children under eight years of age continued in September also.

Food Situation

Anantapur: The general food situation in the district was fairly satisfactory during the month. The district had adequate stocks of rice and millets including maize. The stocks of wheat and wheat products were however inadequate. Issues of wheat were therefore restricted to statutorily rationed areas only while wheat flour was issued only to bakers. During the latter part of the month, the district received a supply of 200 tons of wheat flour. The stocks of all pulses except toor dhall were fairly adequate. Despatches of toor to the district from Central Provinces commenced during the second fortnight of the month and the consignments should have been received in the district by now. Supply of sugar was restricted and steps were being taken to introduce a system of informal rationing in statutorily rationed areas.

Bellary: The rice position in the district which was not quite satisfactory at the commencement of the month improved during the course of the month with imports from Bezwada. There was an increase in the offtake on account of the immigration of outside labour to the Tungabhadra Project camps. Stocks of millets and wheat were satisfactory. The stocks of wheat flour and maida were however not adequate, and therefore their issues were restricted to statutorily rationed areas only. The stocks and supply position in regard to pulses was not quite satisfactory, and the position is expected to improve with the anticipated early arrival of stocks from the supply sources. As regards sugar, though supply was inadequate its distribution was as equitable as possible. The position in regard to other commodities was fairly satisfactory.

Accelerated Wells Scheme

Issued on October 18, 1946.

The time allowed for completion of well works under the Accelerated Wells Scheme expired on 30th September 1946. Up to 31st August 1946 only about 22% of the well works for which subsidies had been paid, were completed and at this rate of progress a substantial proportion of the works would not have been completed by 30th September 1946. The Government understand that in many cases, the main part of the work has been done and that the delay in completing the work is due to difficulty in getting labour and masons and in transporting bricks and stones in the wet weather. In the circumstances, the Government have ordered the extension of time for completion of well works under the scheme upto 31st March 1947, once and for all, *in cases where* the work had made substantial progress by 30th September 1946. In all other cases where the work had not been begun at all on 30th September 1946 or where the progress was not substantial no extension of time will be given.

Sale Of Kuruvai Paddy

Issued on October 28, 1946.

Government are informed that land owners in Tanjore District refuse to part with the recently harvested Kuruvai paddy unless the millers pay them at Rs. 5-1-3 or Rs. 5-2-3 per Imperial Maund at village site, taking their stand on a note which appeared in the press recently that the F.O.R. prices of paddy for export has been fixed by Government at Rs. 5-13-3 per Imperial Maund and that the cartage and other expenses work out to 11 to 12 annas per maund. Ever since 1942, when the system of ceiling prices in surplus districts was introduced, Government have been fixing only F.O.R. rates for export of rice by millers, leaving them to strike bargains with the producers which would enable them to deliver at these rates. The same policy is being continued this year also and the Government have made no change. The figures which appeared in the press are only approximate amounts and millers cannot in all cases pay at those rates without regard to the distance of the village site to the mills and to the Railway Stations. The F.O.R. price for Kuruvai rice in Tanjore District this year has been fixed by Government at Rs. 8-9-0 per maund which is really the rate for second sort now and it is open to millers to strike bargains with the ryots which would enable them to supply at these rates. No fixed village site price for sale by producers to millers has been prescribed by the Government.

Bonus for Short-term Paddy.

Government have received several representations to the effect that increased bonus of Rs. 2 per Imperial Maund of paddy announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and which is to be in force till the 31st of October 1946, should be allowed for deliveries of short-term paddy made even after the said date as the Kuruvai crop this year was raised late. The Government wish to make it clear that the increased bonus was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister only in order to induce producers who had reserved for their consumption and their family consumption at the rate of 1 lb. per adult per day to reduce their consumption and surrender as much as they can. For administrative convenience and also in order to benefit those who raised short-term crops, this additional bonus was ordered to be given for all deliveries of paddy upto 31st October. There is no reason therefore to allow the increased bonus to all deliveries after October. The bonus previously announced of Re. 1 per imperial maund of paddy will continue to be given for the short-term paddy delivered upto 15th of November, 1946.

False Report

Issued on October 25, 1946.

Government have seen the news item published in the *"Andhra Patrika"* that the Minister for public Information has drafted a scheme for countering communist propaganda in the Province and the Comments in the *'Prajasakthi'* and the *Swatantra* thereon.

They desire to point out that there is no scheme under the contemplation of the Information Minister, as alleged, to counter the communist propaganda, and to state that there is one specially being drafted for that purpose is absolutely without any foundation.

India's Dollar Earnings and Expenditure

As there appear to be considerable misgivings in the public mind about such matters as India's earnings and expenditure of dollars, the Empire Dollar Pool and The Postwar Dollar Fund, Government consider it desirable to explain the main facts in this regard to the public.

Empire Dollar Pool

It was customary before the war for a large number of countries (generally referred to as the "sterling bloc") to hold all or almost all their foreign exchange balances in London in the form of sterling. Sterling was then freely convertible into other currencies and therefore countries which held sterling balances could convert them at will into any currency which they happened to need for fulfilling their international obligations. With the outbreak of the war and the increasing difficulty thereby caused in securing the convertibility of sterling, this system assumed a degree of rigidity which had not been previously contemplated. Those members of the "sterling bloc" who continued to be members of what is now known as the "sterling area" forewent their right to hold foreign exchange in their own custody and agreed to impose restrictions on the expenditure of foreign exchange in order to ensure that the limited resources of the sterling area of foreign currencies were utilised to the best advantage in the prosecution of the war. The whole of the sterling area's holdings of foreign exchange were held in one pool in the custody of the Bank of England and the British Treasury. As the United States dollar was the most important foreign currency in this Pool this whole arrangement came to be known as the Empire Dollar Pool instead of the Sterling Area Pool of Foreign Exchange which more correctly describes it.

Test of Essentiality

In the working of the Empire Dollar Pool the individual countries of the sterling area were given no specific allotments of the various foreign currencies which they were entitled to spend. The method by which expenditure was restricted was that the countries concerned agreed not to spend foreign exchange unless the demand for which it was required was essential and could not be satisfied within the sterling area. The test of essentiality varied in strictness from time to time as the volume of the Pool increased or decreased and at

the conclusion of the war and for a considerable period before it the test was whether a particular demand was necessary for the prosecution of the war or for the maintenance of the civil economy at a wartime level. The member country itself has always been the judge of the essentiality of its own requirements and when it has certified that a particular requirement is essential and its Exchange Control has granted the necessary authorisation, the Pool has never questioned the decision taken. With the end of the war, the definition of essentiality applicable till then lost its meaning and the Government of India are much more liberal now in the classification of requirements as essential than they have been in the past.

Earnings & Expenditure

The Government of India have kept an account of India's earnings and expenditure of hard currencies, some figures about which were published in the Finance Member's Budget speech last February. Since the beginning of the War up to the 31st March, 1946, India earned Rs. 405 crores worth of U. S. A. dollars and spent Rs. 240 crores having a net surplus of Rs. 165 crores. Against this has to be set off the fact that India spent more than she earned, to the extent of Rs. 41 crores, of other hard currencies, namely those of Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal. India's net contribution to the Pool has therefore been about Rs. 114 crores till the close of the year 1945-46. During the quarter ending June, 1946, for which preliminary figures are now available there has been a substantial net withdrawal by India on the Pool, mainly on account of food imports and other payments on Government account. These figures must not however be taken as our "share" in the Dollar Pool for what we can spend is, strictly speaking, not related to nor limited by what we have contributed.

Post-War Dollar Fund

The public are aware that there is a fund known as the Post-War Dollar Fund to which the Pool has contributed $ 20 million for the year 1944. In the year 1943-44, His Majesty's Government agreed, in view of our large dollar contributions to the Empire Dollar Pool and of our willingness to agree to give reciprocal aid to the United States, to place at our disposal a sum of $ 20 million in a separate fund to be utilised after the conclusion of hostilities with Japan for restocking and capital expenditure in the U.S.A. All expenditure for these purposes was to be met from the Fund and not till this Fund was exhausted were we to ask for dollars from the Pool for the financing of such expenditure. This figure of $ 20 million was a percentage of our dollar earnings on trade account in the year 1944, and H.M.G. agreed that they would credit the Fund with a similar sum, upto a maximum of $ 20 million, for the year 1945 if our dollar earnings on the same basis for that year were of the same order as for the year 1944. In respect of 1945, H.M.G. have just intimated an allocation of $ 20 million. It is generally believed that this Fund represents the total resources in U.S. Dollars which India possesses for the purchases of capital goods. Such a belief is however erroneous. The limit of our purchases is not necessarily the amount in the Fund; for we have the right to draw on the Pool for all capital goods the import of which we regard as legitimate. As against the $ 20 million allotment to the Fund for 1944 and in anticipation of further allotment, the Government of India have issued sanctions for the import of capital goods, the purchase of ships and for other industrial purposes upto $ 28 million.

Import Control liberalised

Recent criticisms about the import control policy of Government have been based on two grounds; firstly, that the administrative machinery for the grant of import licences was slow and inefficient and, secondly, that the strictness with which exchange control was administered made it very difficult for importers both of capital and of other goods to import them from outside the sterling area. With the altered conditions brought about by the termination of war, the Government of India have recently made a number of changes in the administration of import control with the result, they hope, that the procedure for obtaining import licences has been very considerably simplified and shortened. They have also adopted the policy of removing as many items as possible from the list of controlled items and of placing them on the Open General Licence for the sterling area. Other items have been placed on the Universal Open General Licence which means that these items may be imported freely from any source whether within or outside the sterling area. Items which can thus be decontrolled are continually under review and the list is gradually being increased.

The Government of India have also relaxed substantially the rigidity of exchange control and the two tests of essentiality and non-availability are now applied with more flexibility. Requirements are now held to be essential if they are necessary for the maintenance and development of the national economy or the maintenance and development of the standard of living, and non-availability is determined with due reference to the quality, price and period of delivery of comparable articles in the sterling area. Further, the burden of proving non-availability has been shifted to Government from the importer so that it is now for Government to satisfy itself by its own enquiries whether goods required to be imported from outside the sterling area are available within it or not, instead of, as heretofore, for the importer to prove that they were not so available. Another modification that has been introduced is that the various currencies of the world have been graded in the order of their difficulty and the tests of essentiality and non-availability are applied to imports with a decreasing degree of strictness in accordance with the comparative easiness of the currency concerned. With these modifications of policy and procedure it is expected that currency considerations will no longer hinder the rapid development of industry in India.

Sunn Hemp Seeds

Issued on October 25, 1946.

Representations have been made to the Government by the ryots in the Northern districts that the prices of sunn hemp seeds have been inflated to very high levels by the dealers in the commodity. With a view to make the seed available in the Northern districts at a reasonable price, Government have issued orders fixing the price of sunn hemp seeds at Rs. 22 per bag of 200 lbs. in the districts of Nellore, Guntur, Kistna, East and West Godavari and Vizagapatam.

ELECTIONS TO MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICT BOARDS

HINTS TO CANDIDATES

Persons intending to stand as candidates at the ensuing elections to municipal councils and district boards should submit their nomination papers in the prescribed form. The form will, on application be supplied free of cost by the Election officers, (Municipal Commissioners in the case of elections to municipal councils and D.P.O.'s, tahsildars and independent deputy tahsildars in the case of elections to district boards). Each nomination paper should be signed by two electors whose names are on the electoral roll for the municipal ward or for district board circle concerned, as proposer and seconder, and the candidate should sign a declaration on it expressing his willingness to stand for election. An elector may sign as many nomination papers as there are vacancies to be filled in the ward or circle as the case may be, but no more, but each candidate should be nominated by a separate nomination paper.

Filing of Nominations

Municipal Commissioners have been appointed election officers for elections to their respective municipal councils. Tahsildars and independent deputy tahsildars have generally been appointed election officers for elections to district board circles in their respective taluks. On the days and during the hours previously notified in this behalf, nomination papers should be presented to the election officers concerned or to persons authorised by them either by the candidates themselves or by their proposers and seconders together. No nomination paper will be received after the appointed time on the last of the dates appointed for receipt of nominations.

On the presentation of a nomination paper, the Election Officer or the person receiving it under that officer's authority may require the persons presenting it to produce a copy of the electoral roll in which the names of the candidate, the proposer and the seconder are registered and may, where necessary, direct the entries in the nomination paper regarding the names and numbers of the candidate, proposer and seconder to be amended in accordance with the entries in the electoral roll.

Along with the presentation of the nomination paper or prior to doing so, the candidate should make or cause to be made with the Election Officer a deposit either in cash or in Government promissory notes, of the sum specified below:—

Amount of Deposit for:

	Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes.	Other Candidates.
	Rs.	Rs.
Muncipal Elections	25	50
District Board Elections	25	100

It is also open to a candidate to pay the amount of the deposit to the credit of the municipal council or the district board, in the Government treasury or in any bank in which the local body has an account and to deliver the treasury chalan or bank receipt to the election officer in lieu of depositing the amount in cash or Government promissory notes. A separate deposit should be made in respect of each ward or circle.

Scrutiny Of Papers

On the last of the days appointed for the receipt of nominations, the election officer or the person authorised by him to receive the nomination papers will publish on the notice board of the municipal or District Board office a list of all the nominations received with a notice that the nomination papers will be scrutinised at the place, date and hour specified in it. Each candidate, one proposer and one seconder of his candidature and one other person authorised in writing by the candidate can be present at such scrutiny. All of them are entitled to examine all the nomination papers received. The Election Officer will record on each nomination paper his decision accepting or rejecting it. In cases where a nomination has been rejected, the candidate or his authorised agent is entitled on application to a copy of the order rejecting the nomination. An appeal against the Election Officer's rejection order lies to the District Collector. The appeal should be preferred within three days of the order.

Withdrawals

Any candidate may withdraw his candidature by giving a written notice signed by himself. The notice should be delivered by the candidate himself. Where this is not possible, the candidate's signature on the notice should be attested by a person empowered to attest vakalats. The notice of withdrawal of nomination should be delivered to the Election Officer not later than 3 p.m. on the next day but one succeeding the date appointed for the scrutiny of nominations.

On the appropriate day notified in the election notice, the Election Officer will publish on the notice board of the municipal council or the district board a list of all nominations which have not been rejected or withdrawn. A candidate may withdraw his candidature even after poll has been found necessary. But such withdrawal should be made before 5 p.m. on any day subsequent to publication of valid nominations but at least three clear days before the date of the poll, where the election relates to a municipal council and at least seven clear days before the date of poll where the election relates to a district board. Such a withdrawal entails a forfeiture of the deposit.

If a poll becomes necessary, the Election Officer will assign to candidates distinctive colours in accordance with the directions of Government which have already been notified to the public in Press Communique No. 42 dated 21-10-46. Each candidate claiming to stand on behalf of the political parties in the Province should produce before the Election Officer his credentials to prove that he has been nominated as the candidate of the party. The colour assigned to each candidate will be the colour of the ballot box assigned to him. All electors who wish to vote for a candidate should deposit their ballot papers in the box bearing the colour assigned to him.

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY CONVERTED INTO CENTRAL POLYTECHNIC

GOVT.'S INTENTION TO ACCELERATE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

PREMIER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

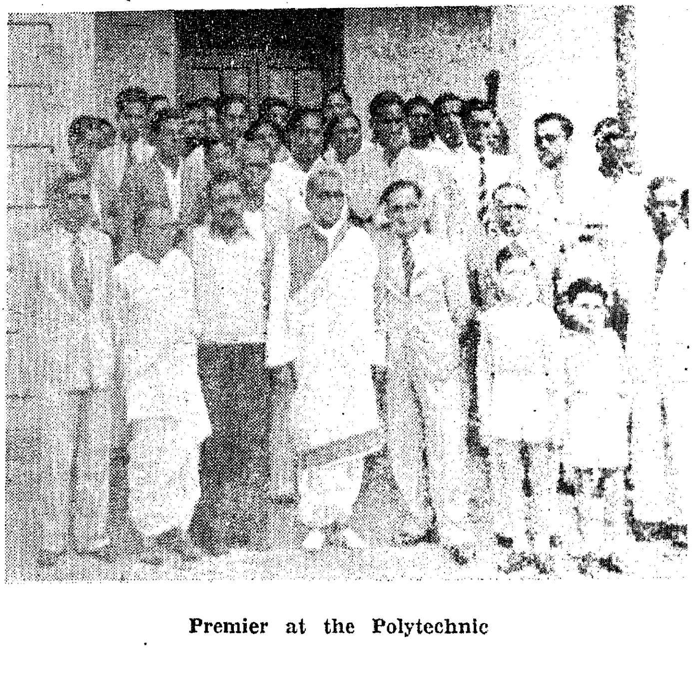
While decalring open the Central Polytechnic at Madras on October 19, 1946, Mr. Prakasam announced the Government's plan to start 150 Cottage Industrial Units for the purpose of giving training to the village artisans. These 150 units cover 49 different industries spread over the 25 districts in the province and are capable of accommodating not less than 3,000 persons at a time.

The Inauguration of the Central Polytechnic was done by Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, on Saturday, 19th October, 1946, in the premises of the Government School of Technology, Madras.

Mr. Abbas Khaleeli, Director of Industries and Commerce welcoming the Prime Minister and other guests said that the Trades School which was originally started had developed into a School of Technology during the last Congress Ministry and today the Institution has been transformed into the Central Polytechnic. The opening of the Central Polytechnic was a Red letter day in the annals of the technical education of this province. He mentioned about the large amount that had been sanctioned for spending on industrial education. He assured the gathering that the officers and his department would see to it that the tax-payers' money was best spent and not frittered away.

Mr. Prakasam expressing his pleasure at inaugurating the institution said that fully recognizing the vital role which technical education played in the life of the community, the Madras Government had provided large sums of money for its expansion. He had little doubt that the return to the community would be many hundred fold and that the young men trained in this institution would play a worthy part in the building up of a prosperous and happy India. While he was glad to note that the need for hostels and playing fields had been recognized and provisions made for such amenities he was not quite sure whether sufficient attention had been paid in drawing up the details of the syllabuses to ensure the cultural development of the country. *"A broad cultural approach to the subjects whether scientific, technical, or technological is essential if we are to turn out men who know not only how to work in a workshop or a factory but also how to spend their leisure hours at home and in society."*

The proposed technical institutions, the Prime Minister said, would be located in cities and towns. Whilst they would meet the needs of the people and certain percentage of the people from the rural parts, they could not possibly help to improve the technic of the vast masses of the village dwellers. So with a view to providing facilities to such village dwellers the department of Industries and Commerce had just finalised 'the blue print for the training of the village artisans.' Under this scheme some 150 Cottage Industrial Units comprising 49 different industries spread over the 25 districts of the province would be shortly established and in these units training would be given to some 3,000 people at a time. When the people complete their course of training, they would be given all reasonable facilities, technical, financial and otherwise to establish themselves in the trades of their choice. Some village craftsmen may show special aptitude for further technical training at higher level. Every facility should be provided for such craftsmen so that the humblest of the humble may be enabled to acquire the highest form of training that we may provide in our institutions. He was glad that in the Central Polytechnic provision existed for the workshop apprentices to obtain diplomas by attending the school in the evenings.



Premier at the Polytechnic

NUTRITIVE VALUE OF GREENS

By

SRIMATHI D. RAJAM

(Lecturer, Queen Mary's College)

Lack of Research

The various edible green leaves, shoots and some flowers too come under the category of leafy vegetables. The familiar imported leaves are celery, cabbage, collards, kale, leeks, lettuce, spinach, and tops of turnip, radish, and beets. Since almost all Nutrition works, to-day, are those written by Western scholars, their books speak of the nutritive values of those leaves, that are to be found in the West only. Reading these books, one would wonder whether there is any green leafy vegetable in India at all. The fact is that there are countless varieties of them; only we do not have their nutritive values analysed and published. The names of many of the varieties even remain unknown to the nutritionist. We have not only the domestic greens of the Amaranth kind; but also what we call the Jungle varieties. These latter are more familiar to the villager, for whom they are the only cheap vegetables they can afford to buy.

The Nutrition Research Institute at Connoor has analysed the following indigenous varieties and published their nutritive values (Health Bulletin 23); Agathi, Amaranth, Bengal gram leaves, Coriander leaves, Curry leaves, Drumstick leaves, Fenngreek leaves, Garden Cress, Gogu, Gram leaves, Manthakali, Neem, Mint and Ponnangani. All these edible leaves are commonly called "Keerai". Many more familiar keerais like Pannai Keerai, Kuppai Keerai, Mullu Keerai, Dhal Keerai, etc, are yet to be analysed.

Consumption Low

Though there is such an abundant supply of these greens in the land, their consumption is not as high as one would expect. Diet surveys show that out of about 20 ounces of food we consume daily, the proportion of greens in the Madras diet is nil, Bengal .2, Assam .8, Orissa 1.4, and C.P. 1.5. The reasons for this are the ignorance of the masses regarding the nutritive values of the greens and the peculiar prejudice they entertain towards them as cheap foods fit only for farm animals.

The primitive man subsisted only on green plants. For generations till they were domesticated, cattle and horses had been grazing on the green grass, and yet lived healthy lives. Not only the grazing animals, but also the browsing animals that eat the leaves of trees, weeds and shrubs are living examples that show that the green leafy vegetables are complete foods by themselves. The leaf-eaters-the elephant and the ox-are unsurpassed for their strength and endurance.

Protective Food

The leaf of a plant contains most of the food-factors required by the human body. Though the seeds, tubers, and fruits also contain some of the food factors, they are too unbalanced in composition to be satisfactory. So even if they are eaten in large quantities, they will yet be deficient in calcium and other factors. But the leaf is the field of the synthesis of all food factors in the plant, such as proteins, carbo-hydrates and fats, and it is also supplied with an unlimited store of actively functioning cells, which contain essential nutrients.

In composition, the leafy vegetables contain a high moisture content, very little of Nitrogenous matter or fat and only small quantities of carbo-hydrates. But their frame-work contains a good deal of cellulose which stimulates the intestinal action and is of great value in curing chronic constipation. Inorganic materials such as calcium, iron and vitamins A, B_2, C and K are also present in large quantities. The leafy vegetables are therefore included among "Protective Foods". These are not only complete in themselves but also have supplemental values not possessed by other vegetables. Though they furnish very little of proteins, yet the little they give is of great value.

Vitamin Content

The green leaves of food, forage crops and of pastures supply us directly and indirectly with vitamin A values. When we eat green leaves, we absorb the carotenes they contain and these are converted into Vit. A. which can be used up immediately or stored in the liver. Further the carotenes of a wider range of green leaves are brought indirectly into the service of human nutrition through farm animals—such as the cow which eats the grass and gives us the milk. Here also, it is interesting to note that the cow which eats green grass yields milk, richer in Vit. A than the one which feeds on dry hay or straw.

The Vit. 'A' value of green leaves varies with the seasons and species. On an average they have 13,000-27,000 International units of Vit. A value for every 100 gms. The thin green parts have the highest value, while leaves which are colourless, such as the white inner leaves of the tight-headed cabbage contain very much less. About 4 ounces of boiled cabbage give us 1000 I.U. of Vit. A which is one-third of the day's requirement.

Greens also supply a good deal of calcium, which is sadly lacking in our poor Indian diets. Drumstick, Agathi, Amaranth and curry leaves are particularly rich in this.

Fresh greens are good reservoirs of Vit. C, otherwise called Ascorbic acid. But they must be taken raw for the Vit. C content would be very much diminished by cooking. Spinach, cabbage and lettuce can well be taken raw in salads; raw gogu, mint, coriander and curry leaves can be used in chutneys.

Riboflavin, which is an important Vitamin of the B_2 group is abundantly distributed in greens. Milk, egg, and greens are the chief sources of this in nature. So vegetarians have to depend mainly on greens for this, barring milk, which may be out of reach for many.

We have also to depend for most of the iron that we require, on these leaves. 'Manathakkali' is an excellent source. It can even cure anemias caused by iron deficiency.

Boon To Vulnerable Groups

Greens are in particular a boon to the vulnerable groups, the weaning child, the pregnant and lactating mothers, the invalid and the convalascent, the growing children and the infirm.

It is a most useful reducing diet too. Without increasing the bulk of starch and calories which cause fatness, it pleases the appetite, satisfies the hunger and supplies all the essential nutrients.

Ever-Green In History

The use of green leafy vegetables is by no means foreign to our tradition. We have the legendary story of the house-wife who prepared a whole feast with just rice and one green leafy vegetable, making one dish with the tender shoots, another with the ripe leaves, a third with the stalks, and still another with the stem. Even the root was used in a preparation. Tamil literature gives us the example of a poet's poverty-stricken family tiding over a famine by living on greens only. The Spartans ate water-cress with their bread. The Chinese used abundant greens in combination with rice. The custom of preparing green salads was introduced into England by Catharine of Aragon. Thus we find that greens have been used from times immemorial and have remained ever-green all through these ages.

Our present diet is deficient in many factors; calcium, iron, proteins, Vit. A and C, being the chief among them. A few of these can be remedied by milk. But the bulk of the population, that cannot afford to buy milk can only look to greens to make up this deficiency.

Hints As To Cooking

A few hints as to the cooking of greens will not be out-of-place. Exposure and storage destroy rapidly the Vit. C, while most of the carotene, proteins and minerals get lost or destroyed in the cooking water. Soda bi-carbonate, which is added to preserve the green colour is detrimental to the Vitamins. Chopping and soaking also minimise the food values. The use of strong condiments is harmful. Hence care must be taken to cook these for the shortest time, over a minimum heat with little, or the least amount, of water. While eating them raw is the most preferable, steaming is the next best.

Various preparations can be made with greens. Salads Chutneys, dhal and green curry, sambar, vadai and 'keerai rice' are some of them.

Greens being such a cheap and good food available to all, at all times, it should naturally have an important place in the national diet. Now, more than ever, when there is a great shortage of cereals, greens must be given their due place. At least 4 oz. of green leafy vegetables must be included in our daily diet.

Co-operative House Building Society

The Government have under consideration a proposal to start a Co-operative House-building Society to build houses for middle class people in the city. A special Dy. Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been sanctioned to conduct preliminary investigations and to formulate definite proposals in consultation with official and non-official bodies interested in promoting house building schemes. The Special Dy. Registrar in charge of the work will be glad to have personal discussions with such gentlemen and representatives of the Associations and other bodies as are interested in the Scheme.

Nutrition Canteen for Labourers

The Government of Madras have been considering the question of making food cooked with a minimum quantity of rice available to the general public at a cheap rate as a measure of economy in the use of food grain. In this connection the Y.M.C.A. has prepared a scheme to organise canteens wherever there are labourers employed in large numbers. The scheme is to cover both organised labour such as those employed in factories and mills with definite hours of work and with a fixed salary and the unorganised labour such as the rickshaw pullers, handcart pullers, coolies, peons, and such others. Mr. V. Henry Devadas, Secretary, Y.M.C.A., Royapettah, has been deputed by the Board of Directors of the Madras Y.M.C.A. to work out the scheme.

About seven centres have been chosen to cover the labour areas such as Tondiarpet, Cassimode, Dock Area, Broadway, Perambur, Mount Road, and Mirsahibpet. A start will be made with two canteens to be opened shortly, one primarily for organised labour and one for unorganised labour.

As the Government are unable to spare rice at present only cereals other than rice will be used for preparing the food. Each meal will consist of one ollock of cereals, one pound of vegetables and butter milk. The maximum price charged for the full meal will be four annas, but it will be served in two different dishes, each meal costing two annas. The canteen is well equipped to cater to about 500 labourers a day, but if the co-operation from the public to serve at the canteen as volunteers is available, then a greater number, to the extent of 1,000 people, can be served with meals per day.

The labourer is expected to be benefited in two ways:

(i) The problem of the labourers' wife or somebody else to have to carry food all the way from his house which may be a couple of miles away from the place he works, will be avoided.

(ii) The rice ration that he gets at present is certainly not

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enough, and the labourer naturally finds it difficult to prepare dishes out of wheat and maize in a palatable form as he is not used to it. But the food that is served at the canteen will be well prepared and is to be in addition to the ration that he draws.

With the co-operation of the public on the one hand and the response received from the labourers themselves on the other hand, it is hoped that this scheme will be of great help to the labourers. It is also hoped that recreational activities for the labourer will be centred round these canteens.

Food Situation in the Province

For the fortnight ending 15-10-1946

The condition of the standing crops was generally fair. Harvest of paddy was proceeding in East Godavari, West Godavari, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevelly, Malabar and South Kanara and of dry crops in parts of Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Nellore, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, and the Nilgiris districts. The out-turn was generally fair.

Local Procurement

The following quantities of cereals were locally procured, during the fortnight ending 30-9-1946:—

Paddy	12,975 tons
Rice	6,211 tons
Millets	4,203 eons

The following quantities were received, during the fortnight ending 15-10-1946, from other Provinces and States under the Government of India's Kharif and Rabi plans:—

Rice	5,225 tons
Millets	270 tons
Wheat	Nil.
Wheat Products	Nil.
Pulses	9,577 tons

comprising

Redgram	4,082 tons
Blackgram	1479 tons
Greengram	1,225 tons and
Bengalgram	2,795 tons

Imports From Abroad

The following quantities were imported during the fortnight ending 15-10-1946 from overseas against the Government of India's allotments:—

Rice	18.540 tons
Millets	Nil.
Maize	16,601 tons
Wheat	9,000 tons
Wheat products	5,002 tons
Barley	4,900 tons

The closing stocks of rice in the Province for the week-ending 10-10-1946 was 1,73,067 tons as against 2,02,095 tons for the week-ending 26-9-1946.

Stocks were very low in Madras City and in the districts of Bellary, Chingleput, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Madura, Malabar, Ramnad and Trichinopaly.

Millet Position

Due to good procurement, stocks of millets continued to increase, being 30,946 tons. A supply of 7,000 tons of millets is expected later in the month. The off-take of millets has now increased to over 20,000 tons per month so that the present stocks represent 1½ months' supply. The stocks of maize at the end of the fortnight were 29,072 tons. The issues have fallen from over 4,000 tons to slightly less than 3,000 tons per week. But the preliminary figures indicate that the off-take in September was about 7,000 tons. It has been reported that another 4 maize ships will arrive before the end of the month.

FOOD RATIONING

Madras Leads in India

The number of people whom rationing covers all over India is about 1,50,000,000. Out of these 150 millions, one-third are in the Province of Madras.

That figure is in itself, an eloquent tribute to the successful working of the rationing system in the Province of Madras.

Shortage Of Wheat

Stocks of wheat have gone down to 26,546 tons and shortage of wheat is reported from several districts. One ship the *'James Johnson'* arrived during the fortnight carrying 9,000 tons and out of this ship, 5,000 tons of wheat was supplied to the C.P. in exchange for which 5,000 tons of rice will be supplied to Madras. The stock of maida at the end of the fortnight was 7,893 tons. A maida ship carrying 5,000 tons has arrived at Madras and another ship carrying 3,000 tons is expected shortly in Cochin. In prospect, the maida position is unsatisfactory, since no further maida supplies are expected during November.

The stock position of pulses continues to improve. During the fortnight, considerable quantities of redgram were received from C.P. and Hyderabad. Additional quotas of 7,000 tons of Bengalgram and 2,000 tons of Greengram have been allotted from States in the North West India.

Indian Food Situation

Report of Receipts from Abroad

Following is an extract from the report on All-India Food situation issued by the Government of India on October, 14.

39 ships from seven different countries brought 2,54,000 tons of food-grains to India during the month of September. The largest single exporter was the United States which sent 80,200 tons while Australia, Burma, Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia and Abyssinia, were the other exporting countries. Out of these food-grains, 13,800 tons were of wheat, 58,640 rice, 28,600 tons maize, 23,900 tons millets, and 4,700 tons barley.

A statement from the office of Lord Killearn, the British Special Commissioner for S.E. Asia reveals that China's rice allocation from Siam is to be diverted during the months of October, November and December to India, Malaya, Borneo, Hon-Kong and the Netherlands East Indies. These shipments will be regarded as a loan to be repaid to China, not later than March 31, 1947.

Whale Meat For Human Consumption

A scientific study of the possibilities of using lean whale meat for human food will be made by a team which will sail for the Antarctic this month in a whaling factory ship. The team will also investigate the problem of selection, transport, storage and distribution of meat. In the process of producing about 500,000 tons of whale oil annually before the war, about 600,000 tons of lean whale meat was handled by British and Norwegian whaling fleets, a part of which was dehydrated and converted into normal feeding stuffs and fertilisers but the rest was thrown back into the sea after the extraction of oil.

SOME ASPECTS OF WORLD FOOD CRISIS

NEED FOR WORLD FOOD BOARD

United Nations FAO

At the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), which began in Copenhagen on September 2, the plan for the establishment of a World Food Board has been accepted. This World Food Board will be the instrument for preventing depressions in world agriculture and at the same time for expanding agricultural production through a co-ordinated food policy based on human needs and raising the level of nutrition all over the world.

World Food Survey

The need for concerted international action is demonstrated by the fact that during the agricultural depression of the early thirties when cereals were burnt for lack of buyers, millions of people went hungry because they had not sufficient money to purchase enough food. It was well-known before World War II that a large part of the world's population never had sufficient food to eat. Research into the problem of nutrition was, however, only in the beginning. The "World Food Survey", prepared by FAO recently represents the first attempt at giving a world-wide comparison of nutrition levels and working out goals for agricultural production in order to banish malnutrition from the earth.

The Survey covers 70 countries, containing about 90% of the world population. Although the data for many countries are imperfect and the figures given can, therefore, be only approximate, they nevertheless form a useful yardstick by which to measure future policy. It must be emphasized that the Survey deals only with *average* nutrition levels in the individual countries. Even in the best-fed countries 20% to 30% of the population did not have enough money before the war to buy sufficient quantities of the more expensive foods necessary for health. A long-term nutrition policy is, therefore, not only required in the poorer areas of the world, but also in highly developed countries like Britain and the United States.

Half The World Under-Fed

Areas comprising over one-half of the world's population had a food consumption providing less than 2,250 calories per head per day. This group includes most of Asia, a part of the Middle East and the whole of Central America. In addition, parts of South America and Africa, which were not covered by the Survey, probably suffered from similar undernourishment. On the other hand, countries containing less than one-third of the world population enjoyed a nutrition level of more than 2,750 calories. This group includes the whole of North America, the larger part of Europe, Oceania and a few countries in South America. The rest, comprising about one-sixth of the world population, belongs to an intermediate group with an average consumption of 2,250 to 2,750 calories; this applies to the larger part of Southern Europe, a few countries in Asia, and also to parts of the Middle East, Africa and South America.

Admittedly, a large part of the deficiency areas are situated in the tropics and sub-tropics where calorie requirements may be less than in the colder countries. Nevertheless, it is certain that, even so, the pre-war consumption level in these countries was insufficient. Widespread poverty forced their peoples to adopt a diet largely consisting of cheap foods rich in carbohydrates—mainly cereals, but also sometimes other starchy foods. From Eastern Europe through the U.S.S.R. to Manchuria stretches a belt where 50% to 60% of the total consumption consists of cereals. In Java, more than one-half of the total calorie-intake consists of cereals and cassava whereas the total animal protein consumed is only 4 grams.

Worked Out Targets

These few data culled from the Survey indicate the magnitude of the task if adequate standards of nutrition are to be achieved all over the world. FAO has worked out targets for the increase in food supplies necessary to achieve minimum standards. These targets assume a level of 2,550 to 2,650 calories for the low-calorie countries and a better balance of the diet in the countries where the calorie intake is already adequate. Assuming a growth of 25% in the population, the following increases in world food supplies compared with the figures before the war would be required in 1960:

Cereals (for direct human consumption only)	21%	fats	34%
Roots and tubers	27%	pulses	30%
Sugar	12%	meat	46%
Fruits and vegetables	163%	milk	100%

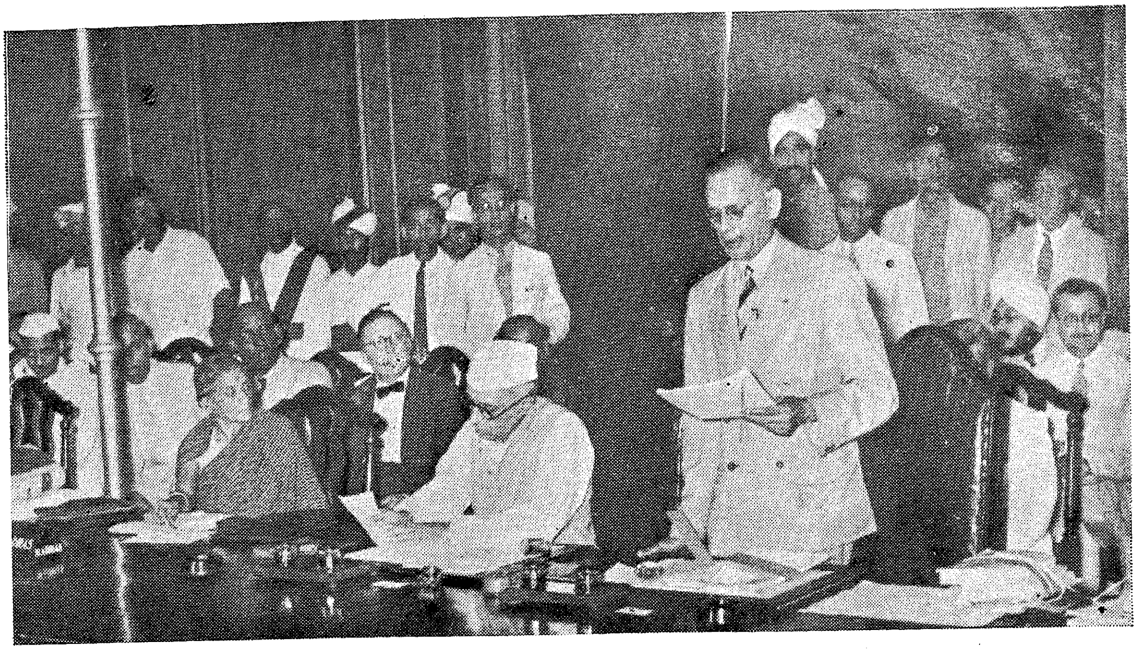
These targets are only a step on the way to the achievement of optimum standards everywhere, which is the aim of FAO. Its attainment will take many years.

The production of more animal produce requires a large increase in fodder crops since about seven calories from crops are required to produce one calorie of animal products. Increase of farming efficiency, provision of fertilizers, opening of new land, reclamation and conservation of soil are, therefore, required in order to achieve the proposed production targets. Only international co-operation in the financing and execution of these projects can make the improvements in the poorer countries possible. This would be one of the tasks of the proposed World Food Board.

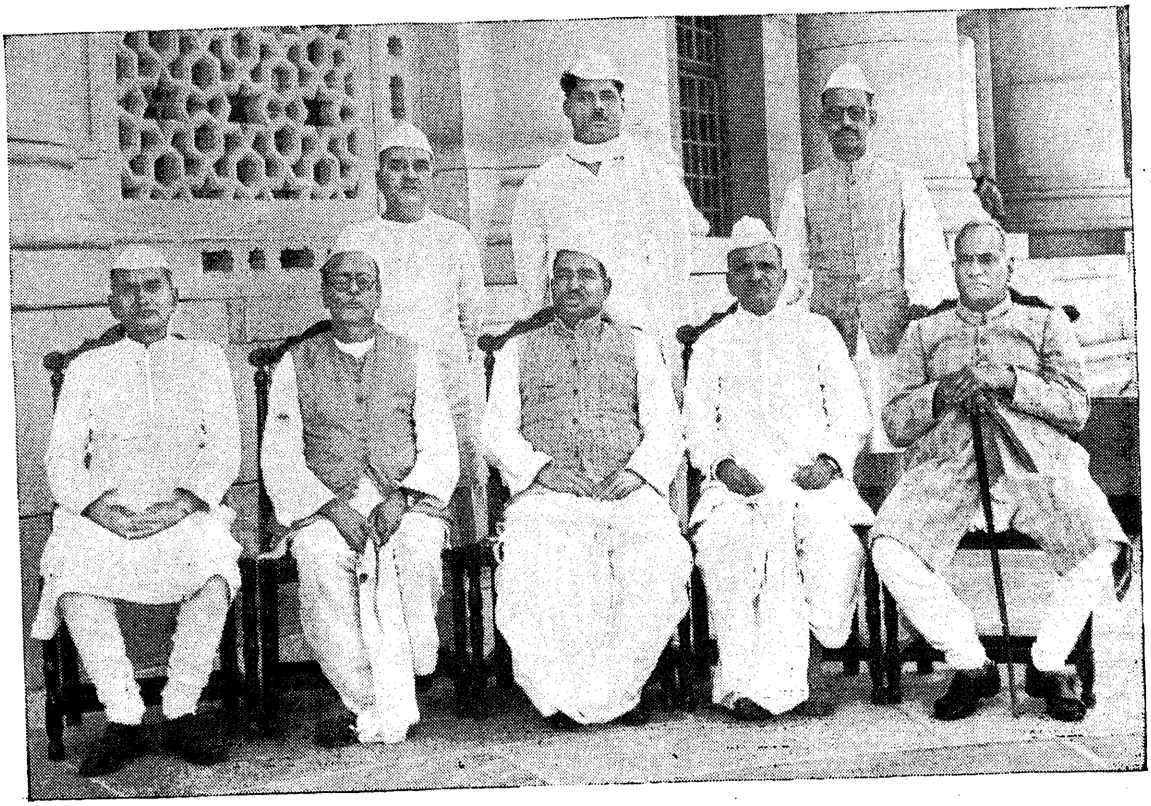
To Combat Fluctuations

The other task would be to combat short-term fluctuations in prices and demand by means of buffer-stocks, a proposal to which much thought has been given by British experts. In the acquisition and disposal of such stocks the Board would not eliminate, but would use, the existing trade channels as Sir John Orr has pointed out in Copenhagen.

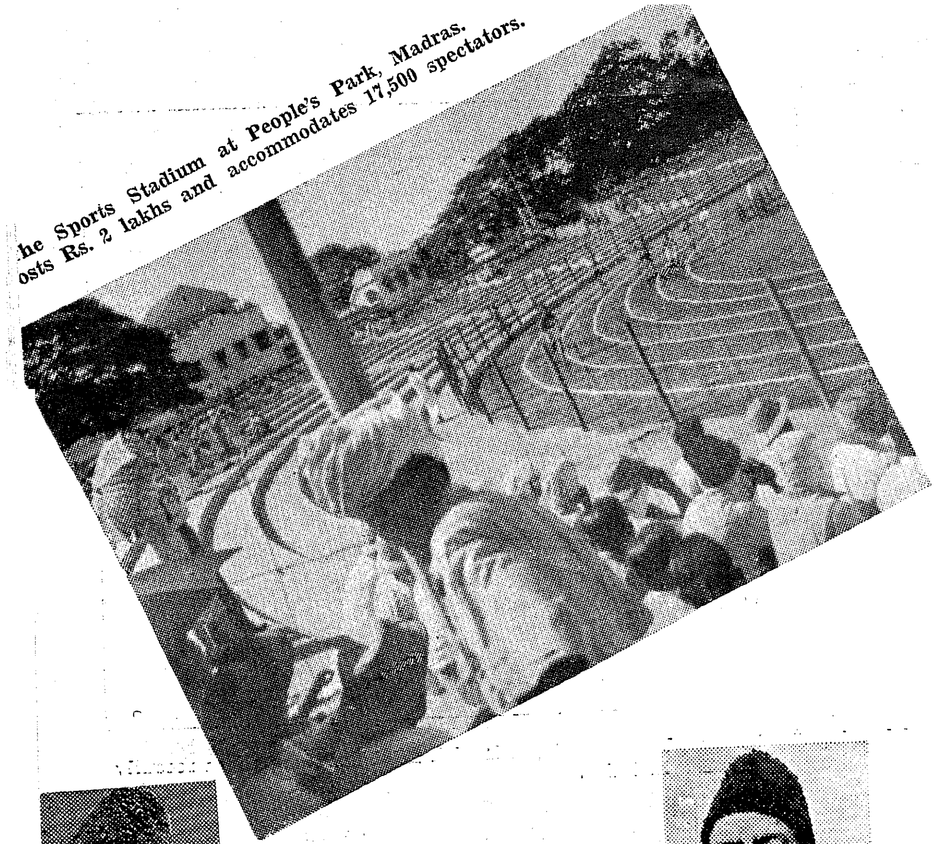
It may seem strange that at the present time of world food shortage such plans are being discussed. But though fat, dairy products and meats will be short for a number of years and rising sugar output will be met by increased demand, a wheat surplus is likely to arise again after 1948 unless steps for increased consumption are taken in advance.



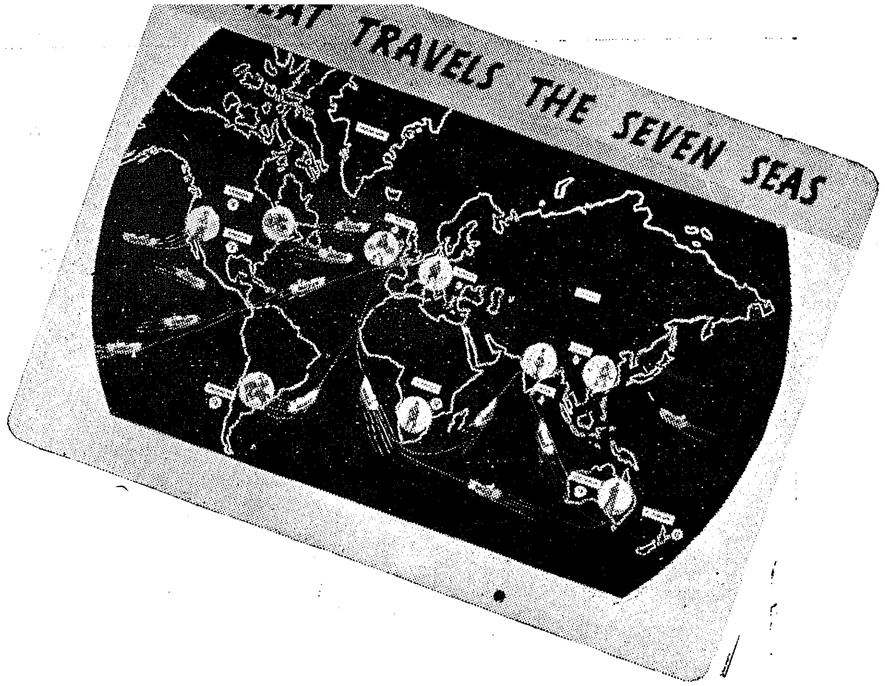
Sir Shaafat Ahamed Khan delivering the inaugural address at the Health Ministers' Conference recently held in Delhi.



The Labour Ministers' Conference.



he Sports Stadium at People's Park, Madras. osts Rs. 2 lakhs and accommodates 17,500 spectators.



Nishtar

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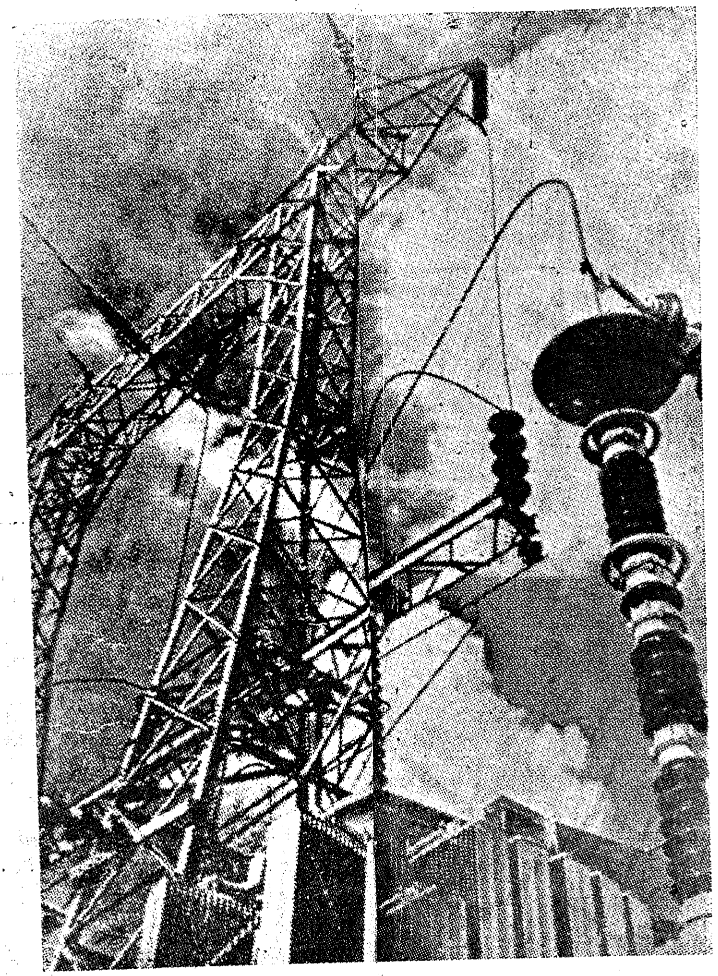


Chundrigar

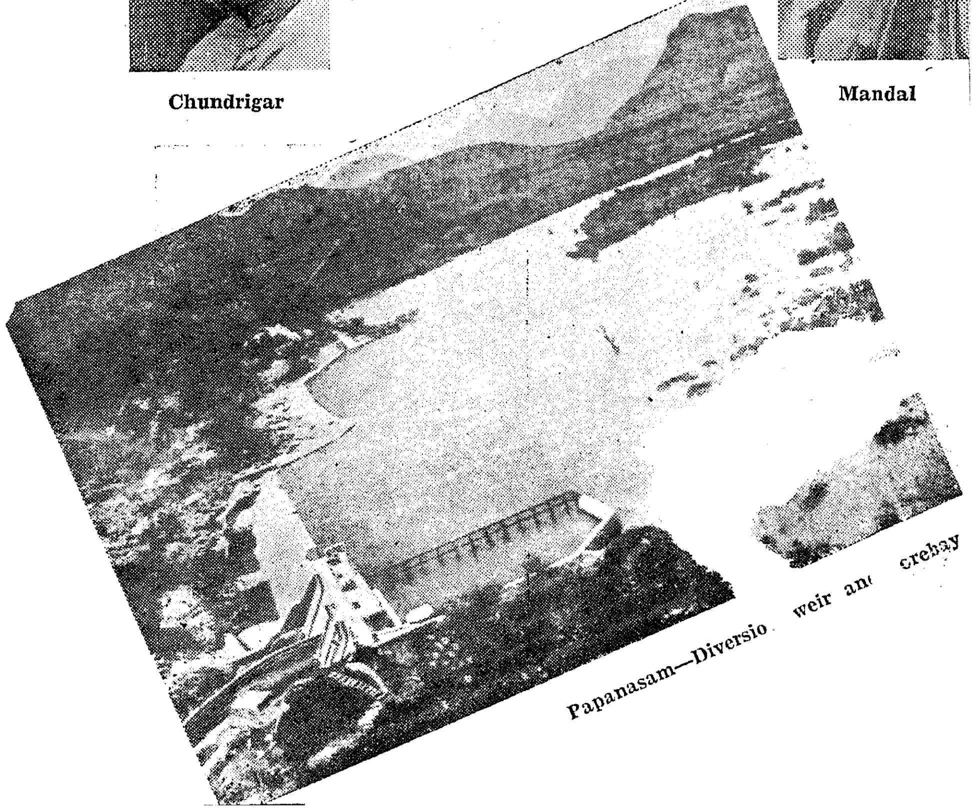
Mandal

H. E. Si Nye witnessing the sports recently held at the Stadium.

AHEAD—BUT STILL THE INFANT STAGE!

"It is believed that in ruractrification Madras is ahead of other Provinces and States in a, though, in all conscience, we are only in the infant stage of development compared to other countries."

THE CHIEF ENGINEER, ELECCAL DEPARTMENT, MADRAS.



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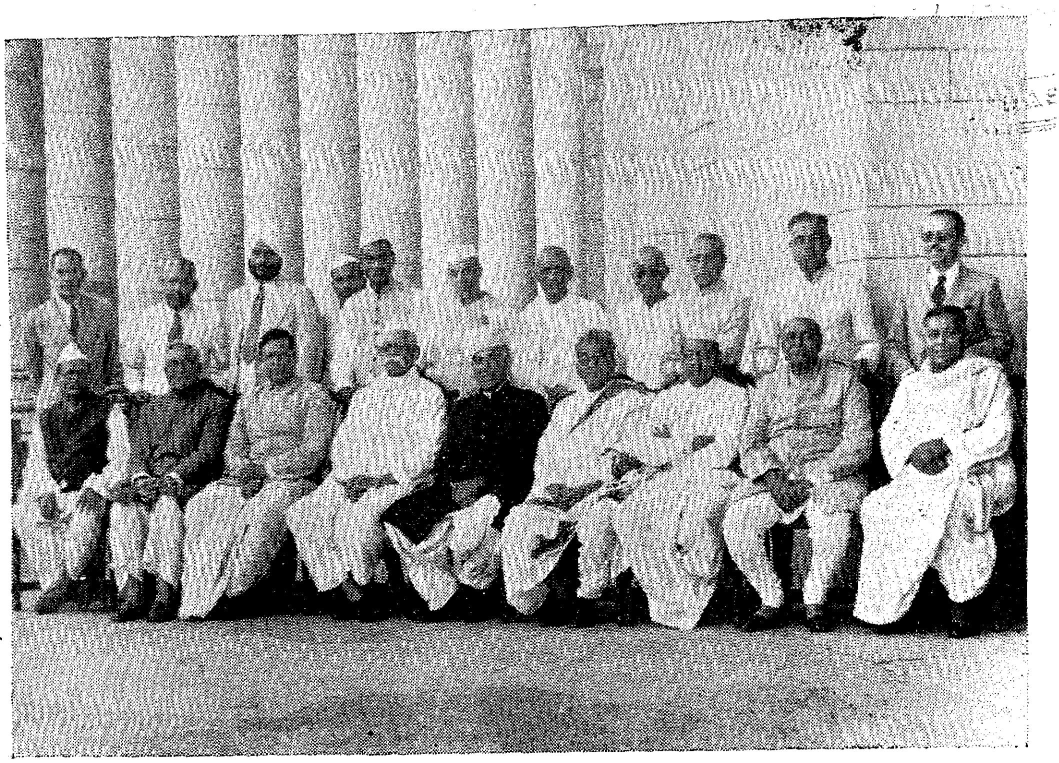


The Prime Ministers' Conference.

Mr. Bhashyam at the Agricultural Conference recently held in Madras.

ABOLITION OF I. M. S. CIVIL BRANCH

ENCOURAGEMENT TO INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE

HEALTH MINISTERS' CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

While detailed plans for health development are to be made and carried out by Provincial Governments, "the Interim Government will do all in their power to assist sound health development in India" was the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan, then Health Member in the Interim Government, in the course of his address to the Health Ministers' Conference which was recently held in New Delhi. He also announced that the Central Government proposed to implement the Bhore Committee's recommendations and to develop health information services by setting up a bureau to collect information regarding the design and equipment of medical institutions.

The abolition of the Civil branch of the Indian Medical Service and adequate provision for research in and the application of scientific method for the investigation of the indigenous systems of medicine formed the subject-matter of two resolutions adopted by the Health Ministers' Conference recently held in Delhi.

Other Resolutions

The Conference accepted the principle of amalgamation of Medical and Public Health departments and considered that the amalgamation should take place when a suitable opportunity occurred. *The Ministers from Madras and Bombay dissented from this view, while the Minister from Madras considered that co-ordination between the two departments was preferable to amalgamation.* The Conference urged that a vigorous drive against malaria should receive priority in development programmes and that subject to adaptation to suit local conditions, anti-malaria organization should follow the general framework of the organization proposed

Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi addressing the conference.

by the Bhore Committee. Subject to review from time to time, it was agreed that quinine production should be continued and developed up to about 200,000 lbs. a year.

It was agreed that Boards of Health and Councils of Experts should be constituted both at the Centre and in the Provinces. It was also resolved that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas should be undertaken.

The Conference accepted in principle the Bhore Committee's proposal for district health organization and recommended that the scheme should be implemented on as wide a scale as possible consistent with financial limitations.

Another resolution adopted by the Conference agreed that a review of training facilities in the light of probable future requirements should be undertaken and that particular emphasis should be laid on the training of personnel, and that that as far as possible, the larger provinces should assist those provinces which have not yet been able to provide their own training facilities by admitting students to their training institutions.

Bhore Committee's Objectives

By another resolution the Conference endorsed the objectives proposed by the Bhore Committee as objectives to be kept in view in formulating plans for a national health service.

Among the objectives suggested by the Bhore Committee are: that there should be adequate provision for the medical care of the individual in the curative and preventive fields; that special provision will be necessary for certain sections of the population e.g., mothers, children, the mentally deficient; and that no individual should fail to secure adequate medical care because of his inability to pay.

Health Ministers from seven Provinces and a number of States attended the Conference.

Regional Food Conference

The Fifth Regional Food Conference, attended by representatives of the Madras Government and the States in the Southern Food Region, was held in Madras on October 21, 1946, under the Chairmanship of Dewan Bahadur C. P. Karunakara Menon, Regional Food Commissioner. A representative of Southern Command was also present.

The Conference discussed matters relating to allotments and receipts of millets and other foodgrains and considered the steps to be taken for expediting movement from the surplus areas wherever necessary. On the question of lifting the ban on the free movement of cattle, sheep and goats within the Southern Region it was decided to request the Mysore Government to reconsider their decision not to lift the ban on such movement.

With reference to the large allotments of maize and barley made to this Region and now being received at various ports, the Conference pointed out that there was no demand for barley in this part of the country and that if large quantities of it were imported they were likely to go to waste. It was decided to request the Government of India to cancel the barley allotments made to this Region and replace them by other grains such as wheat, millets or maize.

The Conference approved of a scheme for the distribution of dried fish and development of new markets for them in the Region, and left the details to be worked out by the Fisheries Departments of the Governments concerned.

Rationing Advisory Panel

The Regional Rationing Advisory Panel, consisting of rationing officers of the Southern Region, met on October 22, 1946 with the Regional Food Commissioner in the chair. The Panel considered at length the present scheme of sugar rationing and distribution in the Province of Madras and thought it essential that the price of jaggery should be controlled so that it may not cost more than sugar. The Panel discussed the question of issue of rations to animals and desired that no rice ration should be issued to animals except to elephants and sick animals when necessary.

Reconstituted Milk

At present there is a scheme of free distribution of milk reconstituted from milk powder to the children reading in the Elementary schools in the districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Chittoor, North Arcot and Salem.

According to the latest indication we may expect to receive about 7,000 tons of milk powder which we are under obligation to take. Out of this we may have to distribute about 1,000 tons to the other Administrations in the province like Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and Coorg. Thus we will have a balance of 6,000 tons.

This amount will leave a considerable surplus after use in the districts mentioned above where the scheme of free distribution is in force. This surplus has now enabled the Government to pass orders extending the scheme to Ramnad, Vizagapatam, Malabar, Tinnevelly and Coimbatore.

At present the scheme already in force in the five districts has been sanctioned only upto December 31, 1946. Now the Government have extended the period upto April 30, 1947. In the case of the new districts also the scheme will be in force from the date of inauguration till April 30, 1947.

Even after these extensions in terms of time and area, it is expected we may still have some surplus to spare. In due course, probably in January 1947, arrangements will be made to dispose of the surplus, if any to the public.

The new measures of extension are expected to cost the Government an additional amount of about Rs. 4.95 lakhs.

Food propaganda

During the fortnight ending 30-9-46, about 523 demonstrations were held in the province by the district lecturers attached to the food propaganda section of the Civil Supplies Office. At these demonstrations the various methods of preparing simple palatable dishes with Maize and Wheat were shown and explained to the people. The honour of conducting the maximum number of demonstrations go to the district lecturer in South Kanara whose record for the period under review is 51.

WORKING OF FACTORIES ACT IN 1944

The number of factories in British India increased from 13,209 in 1943 to 14,071 in 1944 according to a report in the Indian Labour Gazette of September, 1946. The increase was mainly in the perennial factories and the seasonal factories fell from 3,337 in 1943 to 3,325. The rise in the number of perennial factories was 277 in Bombay, 198 in Madras and 88 in the U.P.

The proportion of notified factories increased from 32.6 per cent in 1943 to 32.2 in 1944 in case of perennial factories, and from 10.2 per cent in 1943 to 12 per cent in 1944 in the case of seasonal factories. The proportion of notified factories was largest in the case of Bombay, 88.7 per cent of the perennial factories and 35 per cent of the seasonal factories. The number of notified factories in Bengal was the lowest being only 14 out of the total of 2,012 factories both perennial and seasonal.

The average daily number of workers employed in all industries were as follows:

	1943	1944
Men ..	2,133,622	2,209,503
Women ..	262,244	269,720
Adolescent males ..	24,687	26,659
Adolescent Females ..	3,365	3,524
Boys ..	10,574	111,199
Girls ..	1,910	2,147
Total ..	2,436,310	2,522,753

The total average daily number working in cotton, spinning and weaving mills in 1944 was 656,613 and in Jute Mills 288,662.

Increase in Women Workers

There was an increase of 2.9 per cent in the number of women employed in 1944 over 1943. The increase in women workers was most marked in Bengal with C.P. and Bombay following. The percentage of all female workers to the total factory employment was 10.92 in the year under review.

The employment of women in the textile industries in Bombay and Ahmedabad showed a decrease. This was stated to be partly due to the smaller number of women employed in the reeling department of the mills, and partly to the improved economic conditions of the textile workers. On the other hand, employment of women increased in the mofussil owing to the scarcity of male labour in some of the centres.

Eighty-eight cases were instituted in Bombay for illegal employment of women and children and thirty-nine in Sind.

Inadequate Inspection

11,713 factories, i.e. 83.2 per cent of the total, were inspected at least once. 2,358 or 16.8 per cent were not inspected at all. In U.P., every factory was inspected at least once. 544 factories in Bombay were not inspected owing to increase in work, petrol rationing and difficulty in maintaining cars. The report from Bengal also stated that mofussil factories were to an extent neglected on account of transport difficulties. In the Punjab the number of inspections decreased owing to the preoccupation of the staff. Assam too complained of insufficiency of staff and heavy pressure of work.

The number of convictions under the Act during 1944 was 1,775 as against 1,792 in the previous year. Of these 629 related to employment and hours of work and 616 to notices, registers and returns. Punjab tops the list with 815 convictions, Bombay coming next with 457 convictions, followed by U.P., and Madras. Bengal had only 29 convictions. A number of provinces complained against the small amount of fines imposed.

(Contd. from next column.)

At Navalpur a Chadugudu Tournament was conducted.

A proposal for the organisation of a co-operative Milk Supply society at Melshanankuppam is under investigation to provide occupation to 80 Ex-toddy tappers.

Some Prohibition News

Here are some prohibition news from Coimbatore.

F.W.A. Morris Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Coimbatore addressed public meetings on Prohibition at Kanuvakarai, Sirumugai, Silur, Karamadai, Telungapalayam, Karuvalur, Mondipalayam, Uthupalayam, Sinakalpalayam.

The Assistant Development Officers have organised 25 co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery.

A proposal to settle twenty ex-toddy tappers on lands by leasing out about 100 acres of land in a rifle range in the Coimbatore division is under investigation.

The Special Development Officer held a conference of the Assistant Development Officers at Mettupalayam on the 8th of October for organising district-wide rural recreation and rural uplift activities.

The Revenue Divisional Officer and Special Development Officer held a conference of the ex-toddy contractors and representatives of ex-toddy tappers at Nanjundapuram. As a result, the ex-toddy contractors have agreed to contribute Rs. 11,000 free as capital for any business started for the benefit of the ex-toddy tappers.

During Gandhi Jayanthi, the Congress organisations all over the district held innumerable meetings in which Prohibition propaganda was most prominent.

North Arcot

Tea stalls are functioning in 124 major villages and 96 minor villages.

The Tea Expansion Board has opened free tea stalls at Sholingur, Arkonam, Ambur, Gudiyattam Tirupattur, Arcot, Ranipet, Arr Polur and Tiruvannamalai.

In Kaniyambadi a Coffee Hot Keeper has reported that 3 old me who miss the toddy shops have bc come his regular customers.

At Odugathur a Rural Recreation Club was inaugurated.

(Contd. on previous column.)

ROLE OF RURAL UNIVERSITIES

EDUCATION MINISTER LOOKS AHEAD

POSTAL TUITION TO MASSES SUGGESTED

Delivering the sixth convocation address of the Annamalai University on October 15, at Annamalai Nagar, the Hon'ble Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, appealed to the graduates to live for a greater family than their own which should comprise all the people of their country and even the whole of humanity.

Knowledge For All

It was unfortunate, he said, that Indian Universities were not at the present day in touch with life. The emphasis at present was too much on the rights and too little on the duties. Their education, he pleaded, should be man-making. It was not enough for a man to eke out a mere assistance. The duties of the Universities did not stop with educating boys and girls. To make all the people share in the knowledge was also a great duty of the Universities.

Medium Of Instructions

It was unfortunate, the Hon'ble Minister continued, that the fact of English being the medium of instruction in the Universities and the Colleges had stood in the way of the spread of higher knowledge in the country among the common people. Owing to this, there had been an ever widening gulf between the common man and the University graduate. In America it was a young man who was a woodcutter—Abraham Lincoln—who became later the President of the United States of America. It was made possible because everything noble and high was available to him in his own language.

Because English was the medium of instruction in the colleges the highest knowledge and the greatest thoughts of the world had not been made available to millions of young men and women in India. All the intellect which these persons possessed had gone to waste without being utilised to the benefit of their great country. If these persons were to be benefited, instructions even in the highest classes in the colleges must be given in the languages of the province.

Postal Education

The question of medium of instruction, added the Hon'ble Minister, is related to the question of the right type of Universities. If the masses in the Indian Villages were to be given higher education, a cheaper and more popular scheme of rural Universities had to be evolved. The time had come, opined the speaker, when they should make an attempt at starting rural Universities, in which young men, who did not have opportunities of having even a secondary education, should be enabled to get higher knowledge. Since the masses were engaged in professions like agriculture and would not be able to undergo long courses of studies in places far away from their fields of labour, a method of Postal education should be introduced. They could be given instructions by post, while they may be insisted upon to go to a central place for a month or two in the year for receiving direct instructions in their own languages. If democracy had to be efficient in the country, the common man would nave to be properly educated.

Voluntary National Service

Suggestions had been made, the Hon'ble Mr. Avinashilingam said, to pass an enactment to compel the graduates who passed out of Universities to give an year of national service before they took degrees. The idea of compulsion of service did not commend itself to him. He was sure that graduates with their love for the country and sympathy with the poor and the lonely would come forward voluntarily to do National Service.

The Personal Touch

Because of the overcrowding of colleges, the Hon'ble Minister said, the personal attention to the pupils and the intimate relationship between the teachers and the taught which is so essential for the formation of good character, had been reduced to the minimum. The standard of discipline had also been lowered.

It was the duty of the Indian Universities to keep abreast of the most forward nations of the world in the matter of development of science, pure and applied, with efficiency and throughness.

A New India

The ideal of education, said the Hon'ble Minister, should be service. They were in the dawn of a new era which will re-make a new India. They must feel that millions are starving to-day and ignorance had come over the land as a dark cloud. Having felt that, they must find a practicable solution to draw the poor and the ignorant out of their living death.

Pray For Light

They should pray, concluded, the Hon'ble Minister, for the Divine light to usher in the day when the drown-trodden millions of India, now held fast by poverty, priestcraft and tyranny, would be freed from all of them. Think of them, work for them and pray for them incessantly.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

PROGRESS OF WORK SO FAR

The Rural Development scheme of the Madras Government is now in full swing. This article gives a bird's-eye-view of the work that is being carried on.

Selected Firkas

Twenty-seven firkas have been selected for the working out of this scheme. They are:—

1. Anantapur (Hindupur).
2. North Arcot (Kalasapakkam-Polur Taluk.)
3. South Arcot (Kadampuliyur-Cuddaloor Taluk.)
4. Bellary (Alur.)
5. Chingleput (Tiruvallur-Tiruvallur Taluk.)
6. Chittoor (Nagari-Tiruttani Taluk.)
7. Coimbatore (Palladam-Palladam Taluk.)
8. Cuddappah (Proddatur.)
9. East Godavari (Rajahmundry.)
10. West Godavari (Dondulur-Ellore Taluk).
11. Guntur (Ongole).
12. South Kanara (Kumbla-Kasargod Taluk).
13. Kistna (Bezwada).
14. Kurnool (Kurnool.)
15. Madura (Tirumangalam).
16. Malabar (Tellicherry-Kottayam Taluk).
17. Nellore (Kanpur-Nellore Taluk).
18. The Nilgris (Kundah).
19. Ramnad (Malli-Srivilliputtur.)
20. Salem (Virapandy-Salem Taluk).
21. Tinnevelly (Sermadevi-Ambasamudram Taluk).
22. Trichinopoly (Musiri-Musiri Taluk).
23. Vizagapatam (North) (Gara-Chicacole Taluk).
24. Vizagapatam (South) (Pendurthi).
25. Tanjore (Saliyamangalam-Papanasam Taluk).
26. Vizagapatam Agency (Madugula).
27. West Godavari Agency (Polavaram).

Criteria For Selection

The selection of the firkas was based on the following considerations:—

(*a*) The general backwardness of the firka in regard to communications, sanitation, lighting, water supply, etc.,

(*b*) the presence of electric installations in or within easy reach of the firka or in the alternative the feasibility of installing small plants for generation of electricity in the firka as electric supply is very necessary for the development of cottage industries.

(*c*) The presence of favourable conditions for intensifying the production of handloom cloth and for the development of other cottage industries.

(*d*) The fact, whether some rural reconstruction work had already been done in some model villages in the firka or whether there are some non-official agencies already doing this work in the firka or whether there is sufficient local enthusiasm which can be put to constructive use.

Administrative Machinery

Each selected firka will be in charge of a Firka Development Officer, of the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar and under him there will be one Village Development Officer of the rank of a Revenue Inspector for each of the four or five groups of villages into which each selected firka will be divided. The necessary subordinate staff will be provided for each firka Development Officer and Village Development Officer.

Firka Industries Officers

As the general rural reconstruction work will engage the entire time and attention of the Firka Development Officers, the Government have sanctioned the appointment of Firka Cottage Industries Officers, one for each selected firka, and have placed the work of developing khadi and other cottage industries in the firka in charge of these officers. The Government have also decided to launch a scheme for fostering khadi and cottage industries in the Bezwada Urban area and in the Madras city and have sanctioned the appointment of one Firka Cottage Industries Officer for Bezwada town and two such officers for Madras city.

Opening of Depots

It is also proposed to have depot at the headquarters of each of the selected firkas where the requirements of the villagers like agricultural implements, tools, seed, manure, yarn, etc., will be stored for distribution to the villagers through the village committees. The depot will be in charge of the Firka Development Officers. Depots are to be opened only in those firkas where depots of the Agricultural Department are not already in existence. The Agricultural Department Depots in the selected firkas will also be attached to the Firka Development Officers concerned.

Questionnaire Circulated

A comprehensive questionnaire has been prepared to elicit facts, figures, and opinions which will enable the authorities to take a

complete survey of the villages and their information on all the points indicated in this questionnaire are to be obtained by the Village Development Officers in the course of a survey of each village in the selected firkas. The Director of Agriculture has arranged for an intensive survey of the food and fodder requirements of the selected firkas with a view to find out the extent to which the prevailing agriculture and cropping system provides food and fodder and the directions in which and the extent to which it can be modified with advantage.

A Survey Report

A very brief account of one such survey—a survey of Kadampuliyur firka in Cuddalore Taluk, South Arcot district—is given below. Survey reports from other firkas are also pouring in, and they will be published every fortnight in *MADRAS INFORMATION.*

Geographical Features

Kadampuliyur Firka, in Cuddalore Taluk, is considered by all to be the most backward area in South Arcot District. The area comprises 35 villages, differing widely from each other economically and socially. The firka may be roughly demarcated into two divisions, North and South. Panruti which falls in between the two divisions, naturally becomes the headquarters. The Northern division is a fairly good area, commanding good sources of irrigation, and also decent roads. These are sadly wanting in the Southern division, thus rendering access to markets in the rainy season nearly impossible. The two divisions are also not connected by roads.

Economic Conditions

The Firka, as a whole is not self-contained. Once Veerapermanullar could boast of a flourishing weaving industry, and Semakottai of mat-making. These have now deteriorated. In the south there is plenty of wood, but the crude implements now in use prevent this from being used profitably. The conditions in the Southern area admit of sheep farming being carried on there. The redeeming feature of the firka is that there are no rice mills, and consequently hand pounding of rice will receive full encouragement.

There are no dispensaries in the firka. The villages are also not assured of a protected water supply.

The credit requirements of the firka are at present being supplied by the money-lenders at Panruty and Vellayankuppam. The heavy debts of the ryots are progressively reducing the size of land holdings.

Suggestions for Improvement

From the brief report given above we may now form an idea of the most urgent improvements required. The first thing that should be done is to effect a junction of the two divisions in this firka by a road. If the River Gadilam is bridged, then that would connect both the divisions.

While mat-making, and button making should be given the fullest encouragement, the possibility of setting up a ceramic industry in the southern division, and also the possibility of making varnish from cashewnut shells, should be investigated into. The jack trees that are to be found in plenty will be useful for making charkas.

Another matter of top priority is the improvement of public health. The opening of maternity and child welfare centres will be greatly beneficial.

A veterinary hospital is also necessary. Periodical cattle shows and the opening of a District Industrial museum will greatly facilitate work.

Multi-purpose co-operative societies should go a long way to relieve the peasants of many of their disabilities. The extension of banking to rural areas, should also be carefully considered.

Many of the villagers are addicted to drink, and it is only the introduction of prohibition that can save them from this evil.

If all these reforms are to become stable and yield lasting good, it is necessary that the intellectual and cultural standard of the people should be raised. This can be done by the compulsory introduction of elementary education. Two basic schools can also be opened in this area.

Every village in the firka must also have a panchayat, which should regulate and maintain healthy social life.

Indian Consumer Goods for Indonesia

Enquiries made in the Central Food Department show that Indonesia has already received from India 11,000 bales of jute bags, over 5,000,000 yards of textiles and 3,000 cycle tyres and tubes. Other consumer good consigned to Indonesia by a ship which is leaving India this week-end include 700,000 yards of textiles, 24,000 Agricultural implements and 7,000 cycle tyres and tubes. In addition 203 trucks are made available for transporting paddy from the mills and producing areas in the interior to the railheads.

By the end of the current year Indonesia's demands for rice mill stores and spare parts and the balance of 20,000,000 yards of textiles will, it is hoped, be met in full. It is expected that the arrival of consumer goods in Indonesia in increasing quantities will help to accelerate the exports of paddy from that country.

"Ford" Car parts

The Government of India have published for general information a price list of "Ford" 8 and 10 H.P car parts, by a notification in a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated August 9, 1946. Copies of the price list are available with the Manager, Central Publications Branch, Civil Lines, Delhi for sale.

Restrictions on rice for Trash Bazaars

In view of the present stock position of rice and the consequent necessity to adopt stringent measures to restrict rice consumption it has been decided not to issue rice at all to trash bazaars. The requirements of the trash bazaars will be met completely in broken rice and if brokens are in short supply they may be issued in brokens and the balance in wheat, wheat products and/or maize. If no brokens are available, the entire quantity will be issued in whole wheat, wheat products and/or maize.

The above instructions apply to both rural and statutorily rationed areas.

LAND REFORMS IN THE WEST

SOME LESSONS FOR INDIA

In order to find out the existing conditions of agriculture and land tenure system in the Madras Province, particularly with reference to fairness of rent paid by tenant-farmers, duration of lease and security of tenure, the Government of Madras have decided to conduct an inquiry into the present system of land tenure in the ryotwari areas of the Province. They have issued a questionnaire for non-officials and Associations on the subject of reformation of agriculture and land tenure system. Information has been invited particularly on the following points:—Nature and conditions of the tenancy, general condition of the cultivating tenant, cost of cultivation, agricultural wages and employment, prevention of fragmentation of holdings.

A Guide

The following are extracts from an invaluable treatise on agricultural reforms entitled "Agrarian Reforms in Western Countries", published by the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Bombay. Though these extracts refer in the main to agrarian reforms introduced in western countries, the broad principles which underlie these reforms would be useful in providing relevant and valuable data on how to approach the problems of land tenure in India.

Peasant Proprietorship

The one objective of all the agrarian reforms in the countries of Europe (excluding Russia) which stands out more prominently than any other, is that of establishing peasant farms large enough to support the family of the owner. The existing land systems in various countries of Europe today show a complete departure from peasant proprietorship. At one end, England has fostered a system of capitalist landlordism while Russia at the other, has resorted to complete socialisation of land and to collectivisation of farms. We may briefly discuss here the suitability of each of these two land systems to Indian agriculture.

According to some economists, Britain offers a model to those who advocate large-scale cultivation and mechanisation of agriculture. The reason cited by the economists is that though British agriculture is largely dominated by landlordism, yet it betrays no signs of evil effects on that account. But the fact is that large-scale farming in Great Britain is not the result of any deliberate agricultural policy on the part of the State, but a product of economic forces released during the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries.

About 250 years ago, more than fifty per cent of the farms in England owned the land they cultivated. But as a result of general factors, such as the "enclosure" movement, the introduction of "new agriculture" which called for large-scale investments in land, the agricultural depression during the Napoleonic Wars, the coming of "gentlemen farmers" who raised land values to unprecedented heights—all these factors led to a gradual transfer of land from the cultivating to the non-cultivating classes, until by the end of the 19th century, practically all the farmers in England had become tenants. But the landlords in Britain realised that on the contentment of the tiller depended the prosperity of agriculture, and in turn, their own. This land tenure has been further strengthened by the provision of a tenancy system which provides everything necessary to agricultural and social stability.

Drawbacks of Landlordism

It would be wrong to hold that what has succeeded in England should prove equally successful in India and to advocate on that ground the retention of the present land-tenure system in which the non-cultivating landlord is the dominant personality. The landlord, over a considerable part of India, has come into possession of land by depriving the rights of genuine owners of land. These Zamindars have on the whole proved themselves utterly incompetent to manage their estates. It is also noteworthy that the pressure of population on land in India is so great as compared with England that any comparison for formulating agricultural policy is bound to be misleading. In all the drawbacks of landlordism, India resembles far more the continental countries with their residues of feudalism before the first World War, and India has nothing in common with England in this regard.

The other land system in Europe which presents a departure from the ideal of peasant farming is the collective farming system in Russia. Considering the social structure in India, any attempt to enforce collective farming is bound to meet with disaster. Experience has shown that in India the time is not ripe enough even for co-operative farming, which is a desirable end. The various distinctions of class, community and creed, the disruption of communal life in the villages since the establishment of '**Pax Britanica**' in India, the existence of the depressed and untouchable classes who form a large mass of the rural population, are the despair of even the most ardent advocate of co-operative farming in India. Hence, practical considerations rule out the application of a revolution of the Russian type in India.

A Similarity

But it has to be said that like India today, the European countries, before the reforms were undertaken, found their agriculture in the shackles of landlordism which was a remnant of the old feudal order. The remedies they have adopted have stood the test of time and agricultural economists today are increasingly accepting the doctrine that peasant family farms are superior in many respects even to large-scale farms.

Reforms In The West

We may now proceed to state in broad terms the measures comprising the agrarian reforms in the several countries in the West, and to examine the application of the principles governing them to Indian agriculture. These measures may be summed up as follows:—

1. Reclamation of waste land and the release of Government-owned lands for settling landless agriculturists thereon.
2. Buying up of big estates owned by individuals and institutions and parcelling out the land among landless cultivators.

3. Financial assistance to tenants to buy the land they cultivate: improvement of landlord-tenant relationship where it has not been possible to provide land to a large population of tenants.

4. Imposition of taxes on large individual estates and fixing rentals at low levels to induce non-cultivating owners to part with their land.

5. Placing restrictions on the transfer of land by cultivating classes.

6. Creation of non-attachable and indivisible family properties.

7. Regulation of succession to prevent excessive sub-division of land.

8. Consolidation and enlargement of scattered and small holdings.

9. Enforcement of efficient standards of cultivation by empowering the government to acquire land in the case of mismanaged properties.

The countries of Europe have demonstrated how by freeing agriculture from the influence of large estate-owners, the mass of the lower strata of agriculturists can be provided with an independent means of livelihood. The problems now confronting India's agriculture are in no way different from those which faced these western countries, viz., a rapid increase in population resulting in excessive pressure on land and in a growing number of landless people; inequitous distribution of land, owing to a large part of cultivated area being concentrated in the hands of a small minority of estate proprietors at one end and the remaining small proportion of land being broken up into small and scattered fragments owned by the vast majority of cultivators, at the other; existence of extensive areas of land lying idle either as fallow or cultivable waste due to absence of land drainage and reclamation schemes, etc.

The Evil Of Zamindari System

At the beginning of this century, the Government of India admitted in a memorandum that 'the Zamindari system of land tenure is not supported by the experience of any civilised country, is not justified by the single great experiment that has been made in India". The evil of landlordism is not confined to the Zamindari—permanently or semi-permanently settled—estates which cover about fifty per cent of the total cultivated area, but is operating all over the country in various forms. Instances of these are the 'Inam' tenures in Madras and Bombay.

Even in ryotwari areas, similar interests have cropped up in the form of landlordism. In Madras and Bombay, a considerable portion of land is in the hands of non-cultivating owners. The evil of absentee landlordism is still gaining strength in this country. The present land system is entirely in favour of the parasitic interests in land and to the detriment of the genuine cultivating classes. This has told on the productivity of land in India, while European countries have been witnessing an increase in the yields of crop as a result of the reforms introduced there.

Resolute Action Needed

It is evident, therefore, that resolute action is needed to reform India's agricultural economy from every side. The line of action to be taken in this direction may be broadly stated as follows:—

1. Acquisition of land by government for distributing the same among genuine cultivators.

2. The objective being retention of only genuine agriculturists in cultivation, new avenues of employment should be created into which those whose occupation is non-Agricultural but who have taken to cultivation under the stress of circumstances should be diverted.

3. The genuine cultivators must be settled on land by allotting on lease to each a holding of suitable size to support the whole farm family. Credit facilities must be provided on easy terms by the State to help them to acquire full ownership in course of time.

4. Necessary measures should be taken to safeguard these holdings against being transferred by the allotment-holders.

5. The holding of allotment should be made conditional on the observance of certain regulations, such as (a) the land must be cultivated by the owner himself; (b) he should live on the farm, or as near to it as possible; (c) the holding should not be sub-divided into uneconomic units when the heirs of the allotment-holders inherit the property.

Some Interim Measures

In the meantime, certain measures will have to be adopted to remove the drawbacks in our agriculture which call for urgent remedy. These measures would mainly comprise action on the following lines.

1. The State should assume responsibility for the enlargement and consolidation of small and scattered holdings.

2. As a first step towards removing the intermediate feudal interests in land, sub-leasing by tenants should be prohibited.

3. To improve the condition of the existing tenants, the scope of tenancy legislation should be widened by adopting the following measures:—

(a) Tenants should be given occupancy rights, though with certain reservations such as restrictions on transfer of land, sub-division of holdings, etc.

(b) The right to equitable rents should be recognised.

Agrarian reforms on the lines suggested above are of paramount importance in any programme that may be put into operation for the reconstruction of agriculture in the near future as part of the post-war development plan in India. It would be necessary to supplement these reforms by other improvement measures, such as large-scale irrigation projects, control of crop-pest and diseases, adequate provision of long—and short-term credit, education of the rural community, spread of the co-operative movement, an efficient system of agricultural marketing, etc., etc.

Political And Economic Freedom

Lastly, there is one conclusion that lies concealed beneath those that have already been drawn from the study of European land reforms. The economic history of these countries illustrates the intimate connection between political liberation and economic emancipation. This is an experience which is particularly signficant for us in India at this stage with political freedom in sight.

[*The Editor does not agree with everything said in the above article; but space has been given to it in order to stimulate public thought on the problem of Law Reform.—Ed.*]

Letter to The Editor

SIR,

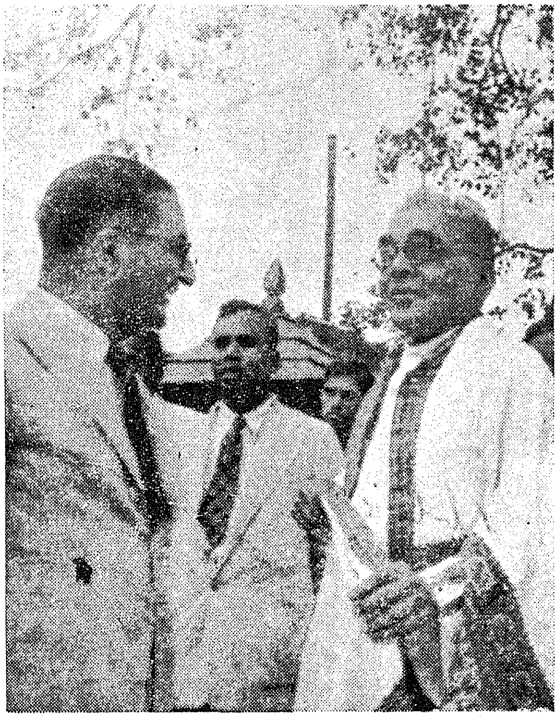
The Madras Government's textile policy announced by the Premier has been attacked on the ground, among others, that it would lead to an invasion of Madras by mill cloth produced elsewhere and that Madras would be at a disadvantage in that respect. Two presumptions, both of them probably unwarranted, are involved in this criticism. One is that the Central Government would not fall into line with and endorse the policy enunciated by the Madras Government, and secondly, that Madras would, if it persists in this policy, have to function in isolation or in contradiction to an all-India policy, or at least follow a policy which had not received the acceptance and endorsement of even the other Congress provinces. Both these presumptions may turn out to be mere presuppositions divorced from reality. There is nothing to prevent the Central Government from declaring it as an all-India policy that there can be no further expansion of textile mills. There is also nothing to prevent—in fact there is everything to strengthen that view,—the provincial Governments from acting in concert in support of a policy which is an integral item of Congress programme. In any case, there can be nothing to prevent the Madras Government itself from adopting any common all-India policy, if one such is devised in the near future by the Central Government.

The Premier's press statement has also repudiated the allegation that his announcement of Government's policy was the result of some undue influence exercised by Gandhiji over him. No question of such undue influence arises when the Government as a whole accept advice disinterestedly tendered by Gandhiji because it happens to synchronise with their own view of what is advisable and desirable for the public and in the public interests. In the case of the Premier, what has been declared as Government's policy had been a matter of unquestionable and unalloyed faith in the efficacy of Khadi development as a part of village self-sufficiency. As long ago as October 1940, in his Journal "Village Republic", Sri. T. Prakasam expounded his Khadi and self-sufficiency philosophy in a forthright manner in reply to a challenge thrown out at that time by Sri C. Satelvad to Congressmen to further the village self-sufficiency programme when they return to power. He wrote: "It will be the duty of the Congress Ministries, if they get back to power, to do their utmost to attain the goal of hand-spinning and hand-weaving and through them the establishment of village republics. I, for one, had already pledged myself long ago to see the programme through, whether as a minister or as a common worker. During the ministership of two and a half years, I had worked hard for the realisation of this programme." After this it is difficult for critics to sustain the charge that the Premier had become a convert to the programme of village self-sufficiency and Khadi development by pressure of some unduly exercised external influence.

BLACKMARKETING BY MILLS

Authorised Controllers to Check

Recent investigations have lent support to the complaints that some mills in this Province have been diverting into the blackmarket, yarn and cloth produced by them but not accounted for in the returns submitted by them to the Textile Control Authorities. In order to check this evil, the Government have appointed authorised controllers in respect of certain mills in this province in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 (2) (h), (j) and (k) of the Madras Essential Articles control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946. The said controllers will have the right to be present in any part of the premises of those mills and shall have accommodation for their offices within the precincts of the mills. The gate pass prescribed under clause 20-A of the Madras Textile Mills Control Order 1946 in respect of any cloth or yarn moved from the mills to any place outside the premises of the mills will not be valid unless it has been countersigned by the said Controllers or by officers authorised by them. The Government consider that the blackmarketing activities of certain mills will be checked effectively by the above measure.



Premier Prakasam with Mr. Khaleeli, Director of Industries at the Polytechnic

FIGHTING BACK THE FAMINE

FACTS AND FIGURES SPEAK

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN launched in the province a few years ago was envisaged primarily as an emergency measure designed to produce quick results. In this connection certain measures have been taken by the new Government which are calculated to intensify the drive. Thus the bonus of Rs. 15 per acre, sanctioned in March to certain categories of short-term crop cultivators, was extended to ryots who transplanted short-term cereals in March and April 1946. Similar bonuses have been given to ryots in certain areas in Madura and Tinnevelly for transplanting paddy in May, 1946. To encourage immediate cultivation of paddy and millets, bonuses and (for paddy) higher prices were announced on 5-7-46 to those who would deliver short-term crops in September, October and up to 15th November.

Existing concessions enjoyed by those who cultivate lands under Local Bodies or road-margins, (viz. freedom from rent, etc.) will be continued; so also the scheme for vegetable production in and around the city of Madras and certain mofussil areas. The Government have repeatedly impressed on the Local Bodies the urgent need to bring under plough every inch of land in their possession.

Special categories of lands, have been granted for temporary cultivation of food crops, free of assessment. It has been also ordered that no penalty should be levied on lands irrigated and bearing food crops merely because of a technical infringment of irrigation rules. Instructions have also been issued that food crops grown on objectionable encroachments should not be destroyed.

Government are also granting loans to ryots which shall be repayable in five equal annual instalments beginning from the second year onwards. These loans are free of interest for one year, and will there after carry interest at 3% per annum.

Between the beginning of the Grow More Food Campaign and 31-3-46, about 19,00,36 acres of lands have been assigned for temporary cultivation.

Irrigation Schemes

Irrigation has been for long a most serious bottle-neck in the food-drive in the province. Therefore the present Government is paying special attention to this question. The Chief Engineer has been instructed to undertake urgently repairs of irrigation channels at Government cost. Emphasis is for the time being laid on minor irrigation which will yield immediate results. It should not be forgotten that food drive in an emergency is a race against time and when we are passing through a period of transition from war to peace economy, it would be to the long-term advantage of the province if the "Grow More Food" campaign inaugurated in war time is vitalised and accelerated to serve the peace time needs of a growing population. Budgetary provision for minor irrigation schemes has beeen increased from Rs. 27 lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs.

More than a thousand agricultural pumps driven by oil engine or electricity have been sold or hired to cultivators. Top priority is given to agricultural purposes in the matter of electric supply, and arrangements are under way to provide connections for 1,800 pumps before the end of this year.

The employment of tractors in the reclamation of wastelands, originally confined to Coimbatore, Madura and Vizagapatam districts only, has been extended to the districts of Chittoor, Chingleput and Bellary (where they are already operating) and to Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Guntur, Nellore, South Arcot, North Arcot, Trichinopoly and Tanjore (where they will shortly begin operations).

Free Distribution of Manure

Manure is another weak link in the chain of our Agricultural industry. Hence the scheme for free distribution of manure worth up to Rs. 2,000 per district to poor and deserving ryots has been extended to 1946-47. Nilgiris has been given an additional Rs. 2,000 and Thungabhadra area an additional Rs. 1,700 worth of manure. Though sanctioned earlier, it was during the months under review that manure costing nearly Rs. 56 lakhs was distributed free in two Taluks in Malabar and one taluk in South Kanara. Existing facilities for the removal of green manure have been liberalised everywhere by the forest department.

Apart from these concessional measures the Government recently have taken over all stocks of groundnut cake for equitable distribution among ryots through the food committees.

Improved Seeds

The problem of improved seeds is not neglected either. At the instance of the Central Government a comprehensive three-year plan for bringing under improved seeds (of paddy, millets, pulses and green manure crops) over 100 lakhs of acres, expected to produce an increased yield of 800,000 tons of food was drawn up. But the scheme has been sanctioned only up to 28-2-1947, and the cost up to this period is estimated at nearly Rs. 36 lakhs. Half of this cost would be met by the Central Government and the other half by the Provincial Government. The latter in addition have also to bear incidental expenses amounting to over Rs. 1 lakh and cost of subsidy which may come to about Rs. 9 lakhs. This subsidy will be recovered from the ryots through sale of seeds produced. However, if some portion of the subsidy is found to be irrecoverable, half of this outstanding amount will be met by the Centre. The scheme will come into effect immediately. Meanwhile continuance of the scheme for free distribution of seed has been ordered.

Soil Conservation

Special schemes have been got ready for soil conservation in Bellary and multiplication of improved gingelly seeds in South Arcot. The manufacture of food yeast, cholam malt and malt extracts with shark liver oil in Coimbatore, and the manufacture in the Nilgiris of "Ergot" drug, which is very much in demand now, are being continued.

Famine Measures

Famine measures deserve separate treatment. About Rs. 12 lakhs have been sanctioned for public works to be undertaken by the Local Bodies for the purpose of providing employment in the three worst affected areas of Bellary, Anantapur and Nellore. A Special Relief Collector, entrusted with the task of arranging fodder supply has been appointed for Bellary and Anantapur. In Bellary alone, the revenue relief amounts to nearly Rs. 1,70,000.

The accelerated scheme of sinking wells launched in February and March, 1946, has not been a particular success in the Ceded districts. The scheme offered originally a subsidy of 50% of the cost of sinking new wells or repairing old ones, subject to a maximum of Rs. 310 and Rs. 160 respectively. The work had to be completed before 31st July, but later on, the time was extended to 30th September. But on its being represented to the Government that the subsidy amount was too meagre and the time allowed too short for the ryots to take advantage of the offer, especially in the arid, dry areas of the Ceded districts, orders were passed on June 26th raising the maximum subsidy to Rs. 500 and Rs. 300 respectively, and extending the time limit to 30th June 1947. It was also provided that the subsidy receiver might be allowed a loan to cover the balance of his cost, the loan being repayable in instalments after two or three years.

Relief For The Vulnerable Groups

Now let us see what has been done for the vulnerable groups, viz. children and expectant and nursing mothers. The Milk Distribution scheme sanctions free milk reconstituted from imported milk powder to all children in elementary schools, who are already not receiving free mid-day meals, in the five districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot, and recently in five other districts also. The Government have also built up a considerable stock of certain protective foods like egg powder, multi-vitamin tablets, Horlicks, Chicken essence, etc. to be distributed free to expectant and nursing mothers, to invalids and to convalescents.

Foreign Sea-borne Trade of Province

The foreign sea-borne trade of the Madras Province in the year 1946 has shown signs of improvement over that of the previous years, and the progressive totals for four months ending July last showed an increase of 19.5 lakhs on imports and 260.7 lakhs on the export side.

The total value of imports during the month of July 1946 amounted to Rs. 344 lakhs as against Rs. 277.7 lakhs for the same month in 1945. The total value of export during the above period amounted to Rs. 411 lakhs as against Rs. 363.8 lakhs in the previous year.

Imports of foodgrains figures largely during the above period totalling Rs. 146 lakhs, and the other main items were fruits and vegetables (Rs. 13 lakhs), machinery (Rs. 18.6 lakhs), manures Rs. 13.8 lakhs), oils and petroleum (Rs. 28.6 lakhs), paper and pasteboard (Rs. 7.8 lakhs), textiles (Rs. 6.4 lakhs), motor vehicles (Rs. 11.4 lakhs), and other articles (Rs. 60.1 lakhs).

On the export side the important items were coir yarn (Rs. 6.7 lakhs), mats and mattings (Rs. 14.1 lakhs), fish (Rs. 17.2 lakhs), fruits and vegetables (Rs. 47.8 lakhs), skin and hides (Rs. 89.6 lakhs), mica splittings (Rs. 4.8 lakhs), chillies (Rs. 6.3 lakhs), tea (Rs. 70.9 lakhs), textiles (Rs. 45.9 lakhs), tobacco (Rs. 18.1 lakhs) and other articles (Rs. 86.7 lakhs).

Lease and Rent Control Act, 1946

The Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1946, came into force on the 1st of October, 1946. This Act continues the control over rents and eviction of tenants which had been in existence upto that date under the Madras House Rent Control Order and the Madras Non-Residential Building Rent Control Order. The Rent Control Orders applied to the whole of the Province of Madras. But the Act applies only to the City of Madras and all municipalities within the province. For the purpose of house accommodation Control a provision has been introduced in the Act requiring landlords to give notice to the Controller whenever a building, which fetches a monthly rent exceeding thirty rupees, falls vacant, so that the Government may take the building on lease if necessary for any Governmental purposes or for use by any public institution under Government control or any officer of the Government. Provision has also been made for allowing an increase in the fair rent of buildings upto 25% in the case of residential buildings constructed before April 1940 and upto 50% in the case of non-residential buildings. These maxima may be doubled for buildings constructed after 1-4-40. The machinery for enforcing the Act will for the present be the same as that which existed for the enforcement of the Rent Control Orders. The Collector of Madras will be the Accommodation Controller for Madras City while the Rent Controllers will be the Acommodation Controllers in the muncipalities in their jurisdiction.

"SELF-SUFFICIENT VILLAGES--OUR IDEAL"

MR. BHASHYAM'S ADDRESS AT AGRICULTURISTS' CONFERENCE

Speaking at the Provincial Conference of Agriculturists held in Madras on the 27th of October, Mr. K. Bashyam, Minister for Law, dwelt on the importance of making Indian villages self-reliant and self-sufficient.

The following are extracts from Mr. Bhashyam's speech:—

"We are in the midst of a world crisis. One great lesson we have learnt from this is the importance of food production. In the future planning of the world and in the gigantic and extensive undertaking for the building up of a new world, agriculture has a special part to play.

Key Position Of Agriculture

"India lives in villages and agriculture holds a key position in the economic structure of the present day India. The improvement of agriculture as such means a great deal in the general economy of the land. In spite of this important position which agriculture holds in the Indian economy, sufficient attention has not been paid to improvement of the methods of cultivation, introducing better irrigation or devising a perfect system of land-holding. Till now under the rule of Britishers, the ryot was left very much to his own device for cultivating the land. The Government busied itself solely with the question of collecting revenue and for that purpose a centralised system of administration was devised and the whole machinery was utilised for the purpose of getting more and more revenue from the land. It is only in recent years agriculture has come into its own and now the Government have become aware of the predominant role of agriculture and are making earnest attempts to improve it. There is the Agriculture Department, separately established, agricultural institutions for research and various other committees and conferences.

Infuse Passion For Progress

"These, however, do not touch the actual peasant on the land, who goes on in his own traditional way. The question is how to awaken him and make him self-reliant and infuse in him a sense of his importance and create in him a consuming desire to raise himself to a higher level of the standard of living than he is now having. In this matter the urgent necessity for village work and its influence for the good of the country cannot be over-estimated. This fact has been sufficiently realised by the present Madras Ministry, which has taken upon itself the village reconstruction as its principal item of programme of work.

"The Firka development system that has been introduced is an experiment and is a measure in the proper and right direction and if properly worked I am sure that it will have the desired effect. It is not a question of money but of workers in the field. It requires enthusiastic and earnest workers full of patience, sympathy and willingness to understand the sentiments of the peasant.

Place Of Co-operation

"In the work of the regeneration of the villages, co-operation must play a very leading and important part. Somehow or other this country is cursed with one sin, i.e., "Fissipariousness". I should appeal to this Association to take steps for the elimination of these tendencies by patient propaganda and intensive work. I hope I shall be in order if I make a request to all retired Government servants who in their "Vanaprastha" period of life should be willing to settle in the villages and work for the uplift and amelioration of the villagers. I may even suggest to Government, as an inducement to make them go to the villages, to give them some village allowance similar to what is given to officers as city allowances. I should like each retired Government servant to select some village and adopt it as his own and try to improve it in every way.

Compulsory Co-operation

I hope you will excuse me if I say a few words about my pet idea of "Compulsory Co-operation". The present position is that the richer class does not care for co-operative societies, for their credit is safe and they can raise all money for their requirements from elsewhere or provide themselves with conveniences for marketing etc. The upper middle class does not find it profitable to mix with the lower middle class below it. A Co-operative society composed mostly of the lower middle class which does not command any credit cannot, by forming themselves into a co-operative society, do much to help themselves and others. Only under coercive measures will the richer classes and the persons commanding credit come into the movement and lend their credit to their poor brethren. No doubt their presence is essential in the co-operative society. From the result of my experience of the co-operative movement and my connection with it for the last forty years, I venture to suggest that the above view is the only right course. In the organisation I have in view, the landless agricultural labourer has also his place. Labour is an asset and must be organised and may be made to fit into this co-operative movement. The linking of the labourer of the end to the capital of the richer classes is very important. This alone can save the movement from being a failure and the ryots from utter ruin. Besides, the presence of the upper classes in the co-operative societies will give them the necessary man power for the purpose of directing the activities of the society into proper and fruitful channels.

In conclusion my ideal is that of a village life self-sufficient for its own needs in food and clothing, ordering its life in perfect harmony among the residents and co-operative in its efforts with other villages for common good and contributing in all ways to the common weal of the country.

PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL REFORM

MADRAS CAN PRODUCE ENOUGH FOR ITS CONSUMPTION

MR. KUMARASWAMY RAJA'S APPEAL AT AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

Opening the Madras Provincial Agriculturists' Conference on October 27, 1946, at the Memorial Hall, Madras, the Hon'ble Mr. Kumaraswamy Raja made an elaborate survey of the manifold problems of agricultural reconstruction in the province. The following are a few extracts:

"Two great and grave problems stare the agriculturists of this Province in their face—the food crisis and the tenure reform.

"Since the tragic days of the Bengal Famine, the spectre of famine has not left our soil. This year particularly, the food situation has become very critical in our province. It is averred by competent persons that our Province has never experienced a food crisis of this magnitude in the past. Of the total sown area of almost 259 million acres in this country, nearly 33 million acres or about 12% of the area lie in this Province. Of the total population of 389 millions in India, according to 1941 census 46.7 million or 11.5% of the population live in this Province. I see before me an august assembly of the representatives of the owners of these 33 million of sown acres. It is a sacred duty of these owners of such vast extent of cultivated land to raise sufficient food and feed adequately the 46.7 million people. If they gird up their loins, it will not be an impossible task.

The second major problem the agriculturists in India at present are faced with is the reform of the land tenures. Ever since the Floud Committee in Bengal submitted its report regarding the future of Zamindaris it has become a burning issue in the public mind. The Government of the United Provinces have taken a definite attitude towards this problem. The Madras Government have been aware of its seriousness from the time when the Prakasam Committee submitted their report on the reform of the Estate Land Act. The sister problem of absentee landlordism is no less serious, and in the wake of the solution of the Zamindary problems, the plight of absentee landlordism, which is described as worse than pestilence, famine and sword, will have to be tackled. Hence this Conference of Zamindars and landlords, active and absent, have grave issues to tackle. The deliberations at this Conference should lead to some method of ushering in new reforms in the agrarian sphere. For this purpose, you must clearly comprehend the spirit of the times. It is not wisdom to resist forces which are, beyond doubt, irresistible.

These two major problems apart, agriculture has been beset with a host of evils, in the immediate eradication of which lies the economic salvation of the bulk of the population.

Legal Difficulties

The laws governing the acquisition, ownership and bequeathal of landed property are as old as the hills and they require modification to bring them into conformity with the new thought and progress. The microscopic farm, poor livestock, primitive implements, unsatisfactory marketing conditions, the blight of rural debt, inadequate credit facilities, bad roads and communications are the most striking of the evils of Indian agriculture. Despite the canals, tanks and irrigation projects, agriculture, in the main, is still at the mercy of the vagaries of monsoons. The recent new type of calamity of the agriculturists is due to the instability of prices and wages. Since 1930, the prices as well as wages have plumbed the depths and climbed to peaks. This violent fluctuation of prices and wages upset all the reasonable calculations of the agriculturists and not infrequently ate away their profits. Even if prices remain steady, the agricultrist is baffled by the bewildering variety of weights and measures, used in the different parts of the country as well as the Province and is many a time duped with false weighing and measurement by the shrewd and selfish sections of the "arhatiyas" and middlemen. The hetrogeneous weights and measures should be replaced by homogeneous ones throughout the country in order to avoid cheating of the primary growers. It is only organised opinion as may be expressed by this Conference that will strengthen the hands of the Government to go ahead with many of the much-needed reforms.

It must be borne in mind that the defects like sub-division and fragmentation and the consequent uneconomic holding and low income are indirectly the outcome of the legal system. The Hindu, Moslem and Christian laws of inheritance allow equal shares to all the male children and the latter two go a step further and grant some share to girl-children as well. Much may be said about the social justice of this legal set-up. But the final consequence of it is to break up lucrative estates into paltry bits and to hamper and clog agricultural progress. So I am of opinion that the reform of this diminutive size of farms cannot be achieved fully by voluntary and obligatory consolidation of holdings but by a change of the legal system itself. It is your duty to understand the situation and also to educate the rank and file of agriculturists so as to make them cognisant of the virtues of legal reform in this direction.

Irrigation Facilities

With reference to irrigation whic can assure a good crop to the agr. culturist, the Government, as all o you know, have very big projec s which, when completed, will make Madras the most well-irrigated province in India. But I feel also strongly, that the old tanks must be renovated, silts cleared and rendered useful. But in our anxiety to improve irrigation rapidly, we should not subscribe to unsound schemes and bogus projects. People residing

in the various regions will have local knowledge and, if they are public-spirited without being parochial, they can do a great service in producing a comprehensive irrigation survey of the Province. I would like to urge upon the delegates attending this Conference to take to this very useful work without any delay.

I feel that finance facilities for agriculturists are extremely meagre and should be improved on a large scale. In this field, the co-operative societies have done considerable good, if not by ample provision of credit, at least by helping to bring down the rate of interest in the decades prior to the passing of the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act. Yet they alone cannot appease the limitless appetite for finance experienced by agriculturists. So I want to have Agricultural Banks established all over the Province, one in each taluk to begin with. They may grant short-term and long-term credit facilities to agriculturists. They should own warehouses of their own and must issue receipts on the grains stored; these grain receipts must be made negotiable and the agriculturist enabled to borrow on their strength. To make credit elastic, these receipts may be rediscounted by other banks and finally by the Reserve Bank. It is my earnest desire to break down the barriers that separate agricultural money market from the commercial.

Enslave Power

In the gloom that surrounds the agriculturist, I discern a bright spot in the development of hydro-electric projects. Electricity must be made the handmaid of agriculture all over the Province. At present electricity for water-pumps and cottage industries has touched only the fringe of the problem. Very shortly I hope that every encouragement will be given to the wide distribution of electricity. The present system of guaranteed minimum consumption in a locality must be replaced by subsidised extension of supply by the Government. If electricity is made available to the various localities, the demand is bound to increase and in due course the cost of extension will be fully met and profit will also accrue to the Government. The initial cost must in no way act as a bugbear, but it must feature as an integral part of post-war reconstruction expenditure.

I am aware of the hardships imposed upon agriculturists by the present system of price control. There are certainly some discrepancies. It would have been advantageous to the primary producer if the price of finished product is fixed and the price of the raw material is allowed to adjust itself. The present system is accused of leaving a wide margin of profit to the middlemen to the detriment of the interests of the producer. But these are problems of the moment. I am more concerned with long-range price policy which should eliminate violent fluctuations and ensure a fair price to the agriculturist. The problem of price-control is complex in the sense that it has to be tackled by both the Central and Provincial Governments with due reference to world prices and with an eye on tariff policy.

Overhaul the Revenue System

The land revenue system also requires thorough overhauling. Already agriicultural income-tax is proposed which, I am sure, will bring about some equity between the larger and smaller agriculturists and will also tend to counteract the regressive nature of the present land revenue system. I am also in favour of exempting very small landholders from any levy of land tax. But this is a matter that calls for delicate handling because any ill-conceived law will induce subdivision of holdings.

I would like to make some observations on the relations between landholders and agricultural labourers. It is essential that agricultural labourers must be contented and contribute their utmost to production. Recently their wages have gone up and in certain quarters, but I appeal to you to look at their standard of living even after this rise has set in. It is still deplorably low. Hence any arbitrary reduction of wages is out of the question. Again economic forces affecting the determination of wages cannot be bottled up by legal enactments. What the big landlords and employers of agricultural labour should think and bear in mind is that only with a well-paid and contented labour force, agriculture can thrive and prosper. So it is necessary that hereafter agriculturists' conferences if they should be true to their name, should contain a large number of representatives of agricultural labour.

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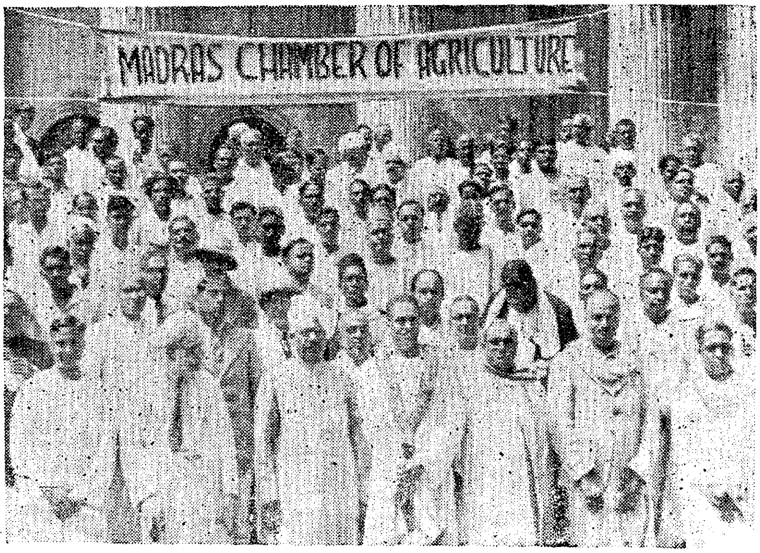

At the centre with the garland is the Minister of Agriculture.

RURAL RECREATION AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

COMBINE PLEASURE WITH PROFIT—

Says Minister of Agriculture

The inauguration of Prohibition in 1937 in our province focussed attention on the dismal aspects of our village life and it was strongly felt that the revitalisation of rural life was an imperative and urgent need. The Government, at the outset, appointed physical instructors in the "dry" districts alone to organise sports and other alternative attractions to drink, but subsequently it was considered more important to provide such counter-attractions in districts which still remained "wet". This led to the employment of Rural Recreation Organisers, one in each district, all over the Province. The following are extracts from the inaugural address of Mr. Kumaraswami Raja, delivered at the Conference of the Rural Recreation Organisers held at the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet, on October 28, 1946.

Conference of the Rural Recreation Organisers

I deem it a privilege to meet the Rural Recreation Organisers of the various districts of this Province on whom rests the heavy responsibility of enlivening and enlightening the millions of rural population. I may say without any hesitation that Rural Recreation programme constitutes an integral part of national reconstruction. Improvement of the health, morals and spirits of the people is as much of vital significance to the proper building up of a nation as a thorough exploitation of the natural resources and accelerated production of the material requisites of well-being. It is incumbent upon you to introduce a radical reformation in, and effect a noble transformation of, our rural life.

Recreation for a poor Country

Recreation in the West may mean hiking, ski-ing, cruising and beating or basking in the sunshine on the sea-side health resorts. Such methods of recreation, a poor country like ours can hardly afford. In the context of universal poverty and undernourishment prevalent in India, the meaning and implication of recreation should be different. It must certainly serve to satisfy the instincts of adventure, exploration, physical exertion and aesthetic expression but at the same time contribute not only to the physical development but also the enrichment of the land and the people. While your primary objective is to build up a healthy mind and a healthy body, the secondary objective of harnessing even pleasurable pursuits to wealth-creation must on no account be lost sight of.

Importance of Man-power

I may say a few words about the prime objective. Your activities must not be exclusively devoted to adults or children but to the entire population. Building up a strong and healthy population, bubbling with vigorous energy and high spirits will result in a high order of man-power. The significance of man-power in the armed might of a nation at war or in the economic prowess of a nation at peace has been realised in its true and proper proportions only during the recent years. This huge task of improving the health and the strength of the people by giving them interesting games and pastimes must be carried out according to a predetermined plan. It should be your endeavour to attain your target within, say, five years. By practical examples and indirect persuasion, you will have to make the people fall in love with your programme of work.

Secondary Objective

Let me now turn to the secondary objective. It is impossible to divorce pleasure from profit in this country, more than in any other. I would like to suggest some pastimes which will achieve the twin purpose of pleasure and profit, recreation and reconstruction.

During the last six years, there has been unprecedented destruction of forests and our forest wealth has dwindled considerably. Sylviculture or tree-planting along the roads, on village commons as well as in private lands, will be an interesting pastime.

Craft-centred education

Subsidiary occupations must be developed according to the natural resources available in each locality. According to Mahatma Gandhi, the best method of education must be craft-centred and not book-centred. More of geography, science and history can be taught to adults and children alike through teaching, say, poultry-farming than by laboriously persuing the cold print of lifeless books. Poultry-keeping can easily supply the background for a study of the various birds and the lands in which they flourish. The price of eggs can be made a lever to teach the rustic people the market conditions and the laws of supply and demand. In this manner every one of the subsidiary occupations can be used to educate the people and employ them profitably. Bee-keeping, jaggery-making, rope-making, vegetable gardening, toy-making, basket-making and others may be chosen in various centres. This shall not take up the hue of sordid business. It may be organised by the local Recreation Officer as a sport and people must be enlisted as members of a team, doing their work in a spirit of emolution. Cheap and simple prizes may be offered to those of the competitors who have produced a record number of eggs, measures of milk, mats and baskets. Similarly arboriculture may be encouraged by giving a certificate of merit to those who

(Continued on page 40)

SERVE THE MASSES WITH LOVE IN YOUR HEART AND A SMILE ON YOUR FACE

MR. DANIEL THOMAS'S EXHORTATION TO MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS

IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ASSURED

Opening the conference of Municipal Commissioners at Vellore, on the 19th of October, 1946, Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Local Self-Government, outlined the great part the Commissioners could play in the new era. The following are a few extracts from the Minister's inaugural address.

"It gives me, indeed, great pleasure to attend a conference of this kind, because I thereby come into living contact, into personal touch, with the moving figures of our Municipal administration. There is a famous advertisement board painted on the Madras Tram-cars 'UNTOUCHED BY HAND'. Similarly most of our administration is untouched by personalities. They are done by paper, on paper and through paper. But I believe the time has now come when there should be personal touch, personal contacts, and personal influences in the administration of the Local bodies.

A Twin Principle

"You have met to discuss and consider what is the best way of improving your conditions of service and also of improving the service done by you. You will remember both these things go together. Your conditions of service have to be improved and the conditions and the quality of your service to the Municipalities have also to be improved. I should therefore be happy if we all would join together and form ourselves into one band of brotherhood wedded to the common cause of bringing health, happiness, comfort and culture to the people who come within the fold of the municipal administration of the Province.

State Within State

"You know the position of a municipality. It can be compared to a state within a state. You know the ancient city states of Athens and Rome. After all, I believe in extent and area and population the city state of Athens was perhaps not bigger than one of our big municipalities. It is in these municipalities that we have opportunities and facilities for making them model institutions. As Poet Tennyson said "in small proportion we achieve beauty".

Freedom not the end but the beginning

"Our country is passing through a great momentous period. The achievement of freedom is not an end but the beginning. Now that we have arrived at a stage in our political history when we are at the threshold of freedom, when the Government of our country will soon be in our own hands, we have to devote our attention to our internal affairs, to the economic development and to the social uplift of the vast masses of the people of our country, more particularly, of those living in our municipalities. It is here that you, Municipal Commissioners, have a very great part to play. Our municipalities have to take a leading part in the daily life of the citizen and in their administration, you Commissioners, have to work out in tangible, concrete forms, various useful schemes and to devise and effect various measures for the uplift of the people.

"During the past years of the war, our municipalities have been in a very difficult state. Owing to the payment of dearness allowance, practically all capital works which would involve initial out-lay have been held up. And now, happily, that the war is over and that things are beginning to improve, it is time to start again and to start with energy and enthusiasm.

Dual Duties

"Commissioners however, come into touch with the daily normal life of the people. Your opportunities for service, are, therefore, as I said, of such a kind as are not ordinarily open to all sections of the Government servants. You have dual duties to perform. You have to regard yourselves primarily as servants of the people, but at the same time you are also servants of the Government. Your pay may be small, your position may not be high, but the opportunities of service that you possess are such as to make your position enviable, and worthy of all help.

Relationship with Municipal Chairman

We all know the difficulties you have to face in your work. In the first place there is the Chairman and the Council. The relationship between the Commissioners and the Chairman has to be well maintained. I would like to say one thing in connection with this matter. The present system may be difficult and the arrangement may be defective. It all depends on the human personalities. If there is a good Commissioner and a good Chairman both of them having one common point of view and one objective, namely, how best to render help and service to the people of the municipality, there is no question of friction.

Enquiry by Special Officer

There are also difficulties in the actual working of the District Municipalities Act. Mr. Wood, who is in special charge, is trying to improve the existing state of affairs and to amend certain portions of the Municipal Act, to see how best we could co-ordinate the administration of Local Bodies and how best we could improve the conditions of service of the Commissioners and the powers of the Chairman.

At the present time there are difficulties in taking up several works and in carrying them out, without outside sanction. We are considering ways and means of enabling municipalities to take up on hand and carry out works that are necessary for the growing needs of a town within specified limits of sanction and without wider interference. We are also trying our best to provide necessary financial resources for their ameliorative measures and to increase your sources of income to meet the growing demands.

I think you know that the enhancement of duty on stamps has already been put into effect. We propose to increase the rate of entertainment tax to provide more amenities to the people residing in municipalities. But with funds in your hands you must be able also to carry on the works without much delay and slackness and try your best to spend the allotment before the year is over without allowing them to lapse.

Status of the Commissioner

I next want to refer to one other matter referred to in your memorandum. That is as regards disunity that arises in municipal administration.

Recently certain acts have been passed and certain rules have been brought into force, by which this position of the sole responsibility of the Commissioners has been adversely affected. The Health Officers and sometimes the Municipal Engineers have been allowed to carry out certain things independently and over the heads of the Commissioners. That is a very undesirable position, a position which does not at all tend towards stabilizing your status and which is also not conducive to the efficiency of the Municipal Administration. We are therefore considering various proposals to remove those difficulties and I would say, speaking for myself and as expressing my view, since the decision finally rests with the Cabinet, that these proposals will be very carefully considered and the handicaps removed.

In regard to the question of unifying the control and management of municipalities, regulations should be made in such a comprehensive way as to make the Commissioner a co-ordinating and responsible authority, keeping other officers and departments under his control and general supervision. You need not be bothered about the question of pay. After the present pay revision question has been considered by the Government there will be a reorganisation committee which will go into the question of co-ordination of all services and the reduction of surplus staff. A Minister may get Rs. 1,000 and the Chief Secretary may get Rs. 3,000. But the question is, what is the position of each officer and his responsibility?

Question of Salaries

You know the Madras Ministry has appointed a Cabinet Sub-Committee of three members including myself to go into the question of pay conditions of service of the various Government service. Within the scope of the committee enquiry and recommendations the pay and conditions of service of Local Board employees have also been included. I may at the outset tell you that both your salaries and your conditions of service are not at all satisfactory.

Entire Service to be re-organised

In regard to the conditions of your service, the position that you Commissioners, now hold is very anomalous. On the lines you have suggested in your memorandum we are trying to reform the entire service of Local Administration. Municipal Commissioners, Dt. Panchayat Officers, Secretaries of District Boards, Managers of Municipalities, Executive Officers of Panchayat Boards with the Deputy Inspectors and Inspector, we are going to constitute all of them into a uniform organisation, forming one entire Local Administration Service which will be one arm or branch of the Public Services wherein there be a interchange of duties. You will then have a wider field of service and ample scope for work. The posts of District Panchayat Officers, Commissioners and various other officers may be made to interchange so that one can be a Commissioner for sometime and be promoted as District Panchayat Officer or Dt. Board Secretary and so forth. We propose, subject to the acceptance of Government, to have a new branch of the public service which will be designated as Local Administration service and which will be one of the main organs of the Government service, placed on a definite basis and footing with definite functions and conditions of service and financial stability.

We are also very seriously considering the question of increasing your salaries along with those of other Government servants. There are too many grades in your service and the scales of pay are also too low, considering the pay of other Government services. We are considering to what extent we shall be able to improve your grades besides raising your salaries. You may rest assured that the Cabinet Sub-Committee of the Madras Government will do whatever is possible, because we realise that the conditions of pay service under which you work are very unsatisfactory. What exactly shall be the nature of these measures, is a matter, of course, which I cannot tell you now and which will be published in due course. But there will be both increase of salaries and improved conditions of service and also there will be a reorganisation of your entire services which will be constituted with our composite Local Administration service.

Centre of Social life

I would also suggest to you that Municipalities should be centres of popular service for the people. The Municipal Council is a place where a number of people come on business. But why should people come to the Municipal Council only for business? Could it not be made a centre of recreation with a recreation ground, a recreation club, a library, and a reading room, where the Commissioner and clerks can get together and have games and recreations, and also invite some people of the town and get into social contact with them and then establish an atmosphere of friendliness which could be constantly developed and fostered.

Serve with a Smile

Complaints are frequently made that people have to wait for days to get their licenses from the Municipal Office. There are bound to

be certain amount of delays. But as far as possible you should diminish these delays and welcome people in a friendly way so that they may like to come more often. If you smile at a man or put on a kind face it makes a great difference. If you put in a kindly word and give a friendly ear, they won't speak ill of you as a Commissioner. I want you and your staff and all your subordinates to move among the people as friends of the people, to make yourselves the servants of the friendliness.

Take Care of the Penny

We often see that bigger things which are in the programme and which are waiting to be taken in due course prevent smaller things from being done immediately. You want a small pot hole to be filled and some road to be repaired. You have to wait for the entire plan of the road reconstruction to be sanctioned. But what is to happen to these small pot holes in the meantime. You should therefore try not to hold up getting small things done under the plea of waiting for the sanction of estimates and plans of bigger things.

Communal Harmony

The Citizens of the Municipality belong to all grades, communities and classes. One of the great things we have established is communal harmony. The Commissioners have a great opportunity of service in this direction. You as commissioners, having to deal with different sections and communities and have occassions of reconciling and bringing together all these sections and be in a friendly relationship with them and weld them into one common brotherhood.

Service of Harijans

Another thing that I want to mention is the question of Harijans and Scavengers and other poorer classes. We have now issued a circular that we shall judge you by the efforts made in raising and improving the lot of the depressed classes. To give them a light, a pipe, a small well, a reading room, these are all things which go a long way in amelorating their conditions and you should all take suitable measures and be vigilent in affording them these little helps.

Housing Problem

There is also the question of housing. It has become a very great problem. Every Municipality has a duty to provide their employees, their scavengers and the poorer sections of the people with housing facilities. In this every one of you should try and get out a housing policy, draw up housing programme by which gradually you can provide houses for scavengers, the poorer sections, the menials and other servants of the Municipality.

Soya beans milk for School Children

I want also to mention one other thing. We have to provide nourishment to our school children. The scheme of supplying milk to the school children has been taken up by the Government. But Cows' milk has now come to be very expensive. In Bangalore they have successfully experimented with a scheme of substituting cow's milk by milk extracted from soya beans, at a much cheaper cost. I understand it works out at nine pies per pound. I suggest that many of the Municipalities of our Province may also supply children with this kind of soya beans milk. I was told in the Bangalore Institute of Science that the machinery for making soya beans milk will cost about Rs. 3,000 or so. It is not a heavy investment if the scheme is successful and is beneficial to the children. You could also grow soya beans in the municipal gardens and school gardens and use them for extracting the milk. I would therefore suggest that such municipalities as can take up this scheme will do well to take suitable steps to bring it into force.

Task Ahead

The Government are anxious to improve the conditions of your service, to improve your scales of pay and the cadre and organisation of your service. The Government will do everything possible to place your service on a par with other Government service. At the same time in the matter of your administration a heavy responsibility lies on your shoulders and I would desire that in the coming years when the country is facing a new era, the Local Administration and Municipal service should take a fresh and upward leap and make itself worthy and useful.

West African Troops

Issued on October 28, 1946.

The report which appeared in the press on 27th October 1946 that West African Troops had been despatched from Willingdon Island Camp, Ernakulam, to Travancore State in connection with the disturbances there, is entirely without foundation.

No troops have been sent to Travancore State from British India nor has the G.O.C., Madras Area, received any request for assistance from the Travancore State authorities.

(Contd. from page 37.)

plant a minimum number of trees or more and by allowing the planters to enjoy their fruits.

The organisers of recreation can divide the villages into a number of brigades and train them each in a particular kind of sport. The natural aptitude of the individuals may be studied and the brigades may be formed; digging and delving may enthuse some; they may take to road making or well diggings as their hobby. Some may be loath to go out of their homes or gardens after their daily work is over; they may be taught indoor crafts, creative and aesthetic in their nature. Music, dancing, bhajanas, etc., can be used to stimulate on the part of the people a desire to live a better and healthier life.

Recreation Officers

All these call for high qualities of head and heart on the part of the Rural Recreation Officers. They should have an alert mind, resourcefulness, a missionary zeal, patriotism and abundant capacity to make sacrifice. You must have a high sense of duty and a fervour to serve the people; then, all your noble efforts will be crowned with success.

The Government are aware of your grievances regarding pay, travelling allowances, staff, equipment and accommodation at the various places you will be visiting in due discharge of your functions. I may assure you that legitimate demands will receive the most sympathetic consideration.

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DID YOU KNOW?

— *That installed capacity in Madras Government power plant totals 110,000 kilowatts?*

— *That the Madras Grid system includes over 3,000 miles of high tension lines operating at voltages from 11,000 to 110,000?*

— *That Madras has 81 electrical licensees of whom 45 are private companies and 36 local bodies?*

— *That they cover an area roughly one-seventh of the Province?*

— *That electricity is now available in 78 municipalities?*

— *That over 900 villages in Madras Province receive electric supply?*

— *That Madras Province has 5,000 electric pumps for lifting water?*

— *That Madras Province has about 600 rural factories using electricity for ginning cotton, hulling rice, pressing oilseeds, decorticating nuts, crushing cane and milling flour?*

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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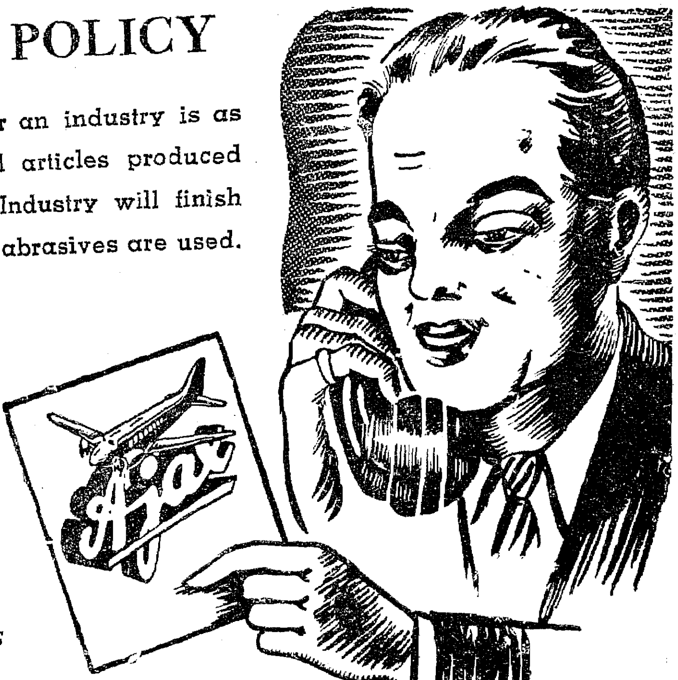

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